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Craftsbury Common — Showing the Congregational Church and Craftsbury Academy



Historical  
Celebrations

in

Craftsbury

Vermont

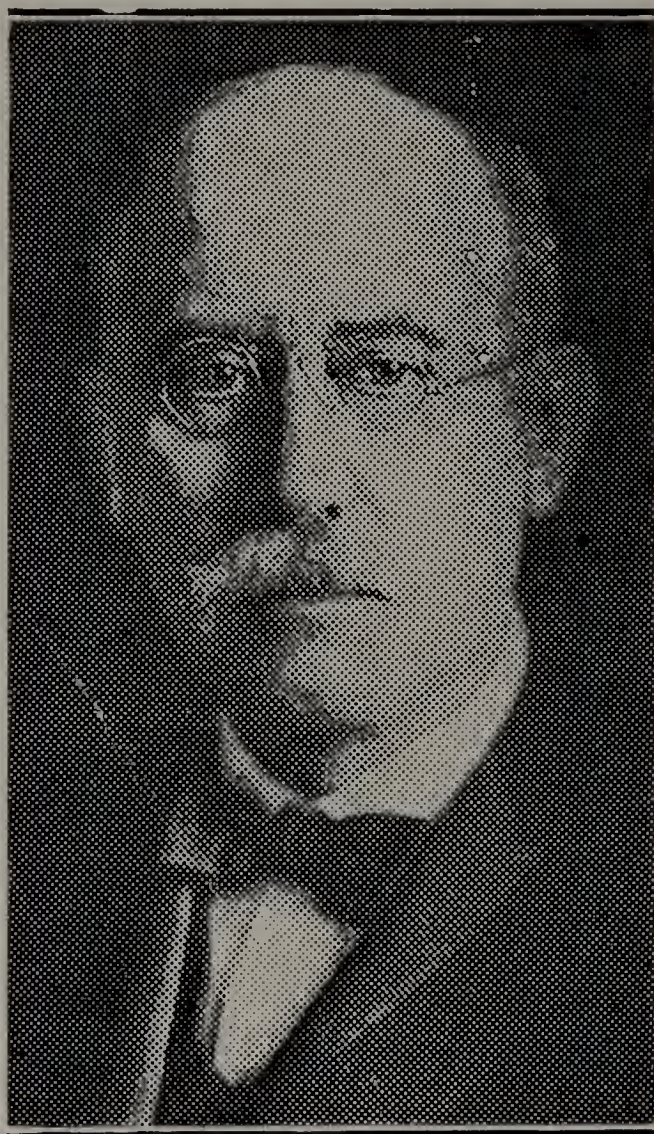


1889-1941

The Cowles Press, Inc.

St. Johnsbury, Vt.

1942



Horace French Graham

To the Memory of  
Horace French Graham  
who first suggested and planned it  
this Historical Souvenir Book  
is gratefully inscribed  
by his Fellow-Townsmen of Craftsbury.

The foregoing portrait of Hon. Horace F. Graham, and the following chronology of his life, were printed in the 1941 Craftsbury Town Report.

**1606714**

**Horace French Graham**

Born in New York City February 7, 1862.

Educated in the Public Schools; moved to Craftsbury, Vt.  
Graduated from Craftsbury Academy

Graduated from Columbia University (Schools of Law and Political Science) cum laude, 1888.

Admitted to the Bar, and opened law office in Craftsbury.

Elected States Attorney for Orleans County in 1898 and again in 1900.

Represented Craftsbury in State Legislature in 1892 and 1900.

Presidential Elector in 1900.

Auditor of Accounts of the State of Vermont, 1902 - 1916.

Member of the State Educational Commission, 1913.

Governor of Vermont, 1917-1918.

Represented Craftsbury in the State Legislature in 1924.

Assisted in the revision of the Statutes published in 1933 as the Public Laws.

Practiced law in Craftsbury.

Served as Moderator of the Town from 1902 to 1932.

Served as a Member of the Board of Trustees of Craftsbury Academy from 1894, and as President of the Board from 1918, until his death.

Died at his home in Craftsbury, November 23, 1941.

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted at Town Meeting in Craftsbury on March 3rd, 1942.

**Resolutions on the death of the Honorable Horace F. Graham**

Whereas, on November 23rd, 1941, our fellow-citizen, Horace French Graham, in the providence of God, departed this life; and

Whereas, he achieved a high place as lawyer, jurist and statesman in Vermont, and

Whereas, as Governor of the State in the critical years of 1917 and 1918, when our country was involved in the first World War, he carried out the duties of his office with such ability, sagacity and unflagging zeal that great saving, both of expense and time, and other advantages, resulted therefrom for the State of Vermont and for the National war effort; and

Whereas, he served the Town of Craftsbury for many years as Trustee of Craftsbury Academy and as President of the Board; and in various other capacities; and

Whereas in his death this Town has lost a devoted citizen and a wise counselor; be it therefore

RESOLVED that we the citizens of Craftsbury, in Town Meeting assembled, hereby publicly express our regret at the passing of Horace French Graham, and pay tribute to his memory; and be it further

RESOLVED that these Resolutions be spread upon the records of the Town and that a copy thereof be presented to Miss Isabel Graham.



## CRAFTSBURY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN 1889

Text of the Program—Posters printed at that time

1789                      Craftsbury Centennial                      1889

July 4th, 1889

## OFFICERS

Amory Davison, President; E. L. Hastings, Vice President; I. T. Patterson, Chief Marshal; T. M. Gallagher, A. E. Cowles, R. W. Cowles, Assistant Marshals.

## PROGRAMME

Sunrise, National Salute. 8.30 A. M., Parade of Capt. Goodrich's Horribles. 9.30, Grand Military and Civic Parade. 11.00, Athletic Sports in the following order:

1st.—Grand Tug of War, open to any town in Vermont for a purse of \$15.00; each town to choose its own team; each team to be composed of ten men. Any town wishing to compete for this purse will notify R. M. LYON, No. Craftsbury, Vt., on or before July 2nd.

2d.—Wrestling Match, open to any man in Orleans County, collar and elbow; purse, \$10.

3d.—Wheelbarrow Race; first prize, \$2, second, \$1.50.

4th.—Sack Race; \$2-\$1.50.

5th.—Barrel and Hurdle Race; \$2, \$1.-.50.

6th.—Three Legged Race; \$2-\$1.50.

7th.—Greased Pole; Prize \$2. No one will be allowed to take more than three first prizes.

12.30 P. M., Dinner. 1.30, Display of Japanese Fireworks. 2.00, Procession will form at the Hotel and march to the Speakers' Stand where the following exercises will take place: 1st, Music by the Greensboro Cornet Band. 2d, Invocation by the Chaplain. 3d, Ancient Music by the Choir. 4th, Historic Sketch by H. F. Graham, Esq., of Craftsbury, Vt. 5th, Music by the Craftsbury Cornet Band. 6th, Oration by Hon. J. C. Burke, of Newport, Vt. 7th, Music by Greensboro Cornet Band. 8th, Speeches by distinguished men.

3.50, Matched Game of Base Ball, Hardwick vs. Irasburgh.

7.00, Open Air Concert by the Bands. Sunset, Firing of Cannon.

### 8.00, A MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS

consisting in part of double-extra large 20-ball Roman Candles; Sky-Rockets; Twin Asteroid Rockets (these rockets at their highest altitudes throw out two asteroids suspended from parachutes which float away in the air and change color in burning); Parachute Rockets, Jeweled Streamer Rockets, Harlequinade Rockets (these at first display a shower of varigated stars and release in mid-air a number of floating, twisting and gyrating figures representing aerial contortionists); Telescope Repeating Rockets; 8-pound Prize Cometic Rockets—(being the largest and most wonderful in its effect of any Rocket yet manufactured); Colored Fires, Bengal Lights, Balloons, Animals, &c., &c., 1 dozen extra large colored Star Mines; large Floral Bombshells—these project a bombshell in the air to an elevation of 300 feet which explodes and throws out stars of every hue, mingled with showers of golden rain; and a choice selection of extra large Exhibition Pieces, ranging in price from \$35 to \$75 each; a Sunburst; Washington on Horseback; a Dancing Skeleton; Aerial Bouquets, &c., &c., making in all a display of fire-works seen only once in one hundred years.

A LOG CABIN erected especially for the occasion in the manner of ye olden times, filled with ancient and interesting relics of the 17th century in large variety will be on exhibition, free to all.

E. H. Webster, Job Printer, Barton, Vt.



HISTORICAL ADDRESS  
DELIVERED AT  
CRAFTSBURY COMMON,  
BY HORACE F. GRAHAM  
AT THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE SETTLEMENT OF THE  
TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY, VERMONT  
JULY 4th, 1889

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

To us, the year 1789 should be doubly memorable. For on the 30th of April of that year, the Inauguration of Washington as first President of the United States, marked the beginning of our present government and three weeks later, on the 21st of May, the first settlement was made in the town of Craftsbury.

Granted by the State, November 6th, 1780, to Timothy Newell and his associates and chartered, August 23rd, 1781, she was given the name of Minden and retained it until October 27th, 1790, when it was changed to Craftsbury in honor of Colonel Ebenezer Crafts.

Early in the summer of the year 1788, Col. Crafts opened a road from Cabot and began the clearing of a piece of land, on the Trout brook a little above the present mill of Luman F. Smith. Tradition has it that Col. Crafts then erected a house and saw mill and laid the foundation for a grist mill. This piece of land was known as the Mill Lot and was given to Crafts by the other Proprietors on condition that he build a saw mill in one year and a grist mill in two. It was not, however, till the 21st day of May, 1789, that the families of Nathan Cutler and Robert Trumbull arrived and located; Cutler on the farm lately owned by Hamilton Z. Harriman and Trumbull on the north side of the road, east of the old French farm, now owned by Judge Dutton. As the cold weather set in, Trumbull, falling sick, went with his family to Barnet for the winter and Cutler remained alone. Thus began the settlement of Craftsbury and of Orleans County. With spring Col. Crafts and Trumbull returned.

True to their New England instinct, first and foremost was the town meeting. The warning for this bears date February 24th, 1792, and is signed by John McDaniels, a Justice of the peace of Hyde Park. It was called at the house of Col. Crafts, March 15th, 1792, and the town was organized with Col. Crafts as Moderator, his son Samuel C., as Town Clerk, to which office he



**"The First Settlers" — Parade of August 24, 1939**

Left to right: Mary Paterson, Edison Paterson, Nancy Dutton, Martha Paterson. Driver: Austin Turcotte.

was elected annually until 1829. Crafts, Lyon and Cutler were chosen Selectmen and Joseph Scott, Sen. Constable. It was voted that all notifications for town meetings for the future be put up at the house of Col. Crafts until some more convenient place be appointed. The first Freeman's Meeting was held at the house of Col. Crafts, September 4th, 1792 and he was chosen to represent the town in the General Assembly that year to be held in Rutland.

At the March meeting of 1793, the first town Treasurer, Daniel Mason, and the first Grand Juror, Robert Trumbull, were elected. The town was divided into two highway districts, all lying east of the Trout brook to be one, and all on the west the other. The selectmen were directed to survey by compass such roads as shall be thought necessary. By the 12th Article, it was voted that any person, after the present season, who shall attempt to drive an ox sled less than four feet wide in any public road in this town shall forfeit the sled to be sold at Public Vendue and the money so arising shall be given to the poor. At the adjourned meeting of June 16th, of that year, the selectmen reported that they had laid out a road from the abutment of the bridge on the Trout brook to the Greensboro line. This was the first highway. Before this there existed only a military road built



from Peacham to Lowell in the latter part of the Revolution by Col. Hazen. This highway entered the town near what is now the East Village, crossed between the Hosmore Ponds and into Albany known then as Lutterloh. On June 24th, 1793, Col. Crafts was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention about to be held at Windsor. At the meeting of March 3rd, it was voted to expend 25 bushels of wheat in schooling the children and in 1796, a committee was appointed to select a spot for a schoolhouse and give an estimate of its cost. They reported that the location that seemed to them the most suitable was 40 rods north of the dug-way on the road to Nehemiah Lyon's, and that they had set a stake there, and had estimated the cost at 90 dollars. This house was never built, but on October 24th, two school districts were erected, similar to the highway districts. Thus early was evinced that care for the cause of education which has been so prominent in the history of Craftsbury.

These meetings were held first at the house of Ebenezer Crafts and afterward at that of Joseph Scott until the freemen's meeting of September, 1802, which was held at the Meeting house that had been erected at the Center, now known as the Common. Soon after the warnings were directed to be posted at said Center Meeting house instead of at Royal Corbin's mill.

At the first meeting of the proprietors held in Sturbridge, December 6th, 1787, Lot No. 7 in the 6th Range had been reserved for a meeting house plot, common, &c. Since that day the Common has been diminished in size either by sale in accordance with the vote of the proprietors or of the freemen in town meeting.

In 1795, Crafts, Cutler, and Samuel C. Crafts were appointed a committee to take charge of the Common and contrive some means for clearing it and were given power to lease the same. They seem to have done this for between that time and 1806, it had been cleared. At the meeting of March, 1807, a committee of four was appointed to lease it for three years on condition that it be leveled, the stumps taken out and the whole seeded down to grass. At the meeting of March 15th, 1836, Augustus Young, James A. Paddock and N. S. Hill were appointed Trustees to deed those portions of the Common now occupied by the Hotel and Store; before this the North end had been disposed of in like manner.

During the first years of the history of the town the staple products were ashes and salts of ashes. A large per cent. of the taxes were paid in grain and this was almost wholly the medium of exchange. The farmer in those days did business on the credit system and in the fall turned over the products of the farm to the merchant who in turn sent them to market.

Among the early merchants were Thos. Kingsbury, Dan'l Chamberlin, Benjamin Clark, George H. Cook, Hollis Allen, Thomas Tolman and Colonel Paddock. Daniel Davison and Doctor Scott fed the traveler and it is to be supposed warmed the cockles of his heart with good old New England rum. Tradition has it that Jesse Olds kept the first store and that it stood on the southeast corner of the old common on what was afterward known as the "Store lot."

In those early times large families were the order of the day and the settlers agreed with Goldsmith when he said: "I was ever of the opinion that the man who married and brought up a large family did more for the welfare of his country than he who only sat and talked of population."

Until the War of 1812, everything went on well but on the outbreak of hostilities a panic seized the settlers and a general flight took place. Many farms were abandoned and some of those who left never returned. With Macdonough's victory at Plattsburgh, September 11th, 1814, the feeling of security returned.

Although over fifty miles away, the sound of the cannonading was distinctly heard here. Some, thinking the battle was just beyond the Eden hills, set out on foot, through the woods for the scene of action. To this war went Captain Hiram Mason, William Hidden, known to us of the younger generation as "the General"; John Towle, of whom it has been said, "he was a friend to every man but himself"; Moses and Elias Mason, James Coburn, Amory Nelson and John Hadley.

On the 9th of June, 1816, occurred a very severe frost, followed by a heavy fall of snow which covered the ground to the depth of a foot. Not a single crop came to maturity. Corn rose to \$3.00 per bushel, and enduring the greatest suffering the settlers passed the winter of 1816-17.

In an article written about 1840, Craftsbury Common is described as consisting of some 30 houses, two churches, an academy, a schoolhouse, a town house, two stores, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, a tannery and a tin shop. It is hard for us to comprehend the Craftsbury of fifty years ago, occupying the first place in the County, with its June Trainings, its Celebrations, its Manufactures, its Schools and its commercial enterprise. It was not till 1818, that any settlement was made at the South Village. As business left the hills and sought the valleys, its rise began and still continues till now it holds the leading place in Town. To the War of the Rebellion she furnished 128 men at a cost of \$13,464.42. Besides this amount \$811.50 was raised by subscription to aid in procuring recruits. This added to the sum raised by taxation gives a total cost of \$14,275.92, giving an annual cost to the town of \$3,568.95.



Of these 128 men, 5 were killed in action, 6 died of wounds, 15 of disease, 5 in rebel prisons and one was killed by an accident.

Of the number that left us to preserve the Union one fourth never returned. Whether they found a resting place at last in their native town or fill a numbered grave in some Southern cemetery or are covered by a monument to the unknown dead let us do them honor, for they offered up their lives that we might become free and united.

At first Craftsbury formed a part of Chittenden County, afterwards of Caledonia, but soon the County of Orleans was erected which was composed of Eden, Hyde Park, Morrisville, and Wolcott, and its present towns. Courts were held alternately at Craftsbury Common and Brownington till 1816 when the Shire was moved to Irasburgh. While here they were held in a building known as the Old Court House, which stood a little south of the present academy. The County was organized at the house of Dr. Samuel Huntington in Greensboro and John Ellsworth was the first Chief Judge. On the 24th of March, 1800, the first County Court was held at Craftsbury. Timothy Hinman was the Chief Judge and Samuel C. Crafts and Jesse Olds of Craftsbury the assistants. Of these men the descendants of Hinman have become widely known. Jesse Olds was afterward Clerk of the town of Westfield and a very prominent man in the Valley. No one of these was educated to the Law. Besides the judges I have already mentioned Craftsbury furnished the first Sheriff, Joseph Scott; the first Judge of Probate, Ebenezer Crafts; and the first Treasurer, Royal Corbin.

Craftsbury in the 100 years of her existence has given the State one Governor; the County one U. S. Senator, Samuel C. Crafts; two Representatives in Congress, Samuel C. Crafts and Augustus Young. Time will permit only a brief mention of her leading men who have won distinction in the affairs of state, in the pulpit, in medicine, in the law and in the arts.

The founder of the town, Col. Ebenezer Crafts, was born at Pomfret, Conn., in 1740. He graduated at Yale in the class of 1759 and soon after married Mehitable Chandler, a lineal descendant of John Winthrop. Serving as a Captain in the Revolution till the evacuation of Boston, he was soon after elected Colonel of a regiment of cavalry and took part in quelling Shay's Rebellion. Removing to Vermont at the close of the War for Independence, he stamped his character upon the town and for twenty years was its patriarch, its friend and counsellor. His son, Samuel C. Crafts, was born in 1768 and graduated from Harvard in 1790 in the class with Josiah Quincy, the elder. Laying aside all thought of entering any of the professions, he shared with his father the trials and labor of a pioneer. For thirty-seven years he served as

Town Clerk. He filled the office of Representative and served as Clerk of that body. He was a Chief Judge of the County, a member of the Council of Censors, a Representative in Congress, a Senator of the United States, a Governor of the State. While a member of the State Legislature he was Chairman of the Committee to decide upon a place for the State House. While in Congress he served on the Committee on Public Buildings during the rebuilding of the Capitol. At first his politics were those of Jefferson but in later life he was a follower of Clay. He left but one child, the wife of Nathan S. Hill of Burlington.

Joseph Scott, the father, served as Sheriff fourteen years, as Judge of Probate, as Representative, as a member of the Council of Censors. His son Joseph was Town Clerk for many years, a Representative and member of the Council of Censors and a man whom we all knew and loved.

Among the men who for the first twenty years held the town offices were Ephraim Morse, Nehemiah Lyon, Samuel French, Daniel Mason, Daniel Davison, Arba Nelson, Seth Shaw, Leonard Holmes and Jesse Olds.

In later years Alvan R. French filled the office of Assistant Judge, and was a Member of the Council of Censors. He was a man of fine legal mind and sound judgment and fitted. Though never admitted to the Bar he was the counsellor and arbiter of his fellow townsmen for many years.

William J. Hastings and Amasa P. Dutton have served as Assistant Judges and Representative; Harvey Scott a Sheriff for eleven year; Augustus Young as State's Attorney, Judge of Probate, Senator and Representative in Congress; Royal Corbin and James A. Paddock as Judges of Probate; Nathan S. Hill as State's Attorney, and N. P. Nelson and J. W. Simpson as Representatives and Senators.

The first Postmaster of whom we have any record was Augustus Young.

Our first Physician was James A. Paddock, a brother of the mother of Governor Erastus Fairbanks, who came here in 1793 and married Augusta, daughter of Colonel Crafts. He died in 1809. One of his sons, James A., graduated at Burlington and for many years practised law and served as a Judge of the Supreme Court. Since then among our physicians, have been Doctor Scott, Ephraim Brewster, father and son, and Daniel Dustin whose sympathetic nature eminently fitted him for the profession he had chosen.

Among our poets were Elizabeth Allen, and Ellen Hall Phillips. Those who have won distinction abroad as musicians are Albert Whitney the instrumentalist, James Whitney the tenor and Ezra Bagley the cornetist.



The first woman to be admitted to the Bar in the U. S., Carrie Burnham Kilgore, was born and reared in Craftsbury. At her admission at Philadelphia, she received special commendation from the Court for the excellence of her examination.

In 1797, the Congregational Church was organized. It consisted of sixteen persons. Nehemiah Lyon was chosen Deacon and the Rev. Samuel Collins settled as pastor. Before Mr. Collins came I am told that a Mr. Holmes had preached to the people. Previous to this their old minister, Mr. Paine of Sturbridge, had visited them. A space was cleared upon the Common and there he preached to them from the text, "the wilderness shall blossom as the rose." Early the subject of building a Meeting house was agitated and at last it was voted to build one twenty by thirty with ten foot posts. This was done and it was occupied early in the year 1802. At a Parish meeting held in March 1801, it was voted to give Mr. Collins the same salary as Mr. Worcester in Peacham is receiving and this was done until 1804 when he was dismissed.

As the number of societies increased quite a strife arose among them for the possession of the meeting house and it was finally voted to allow the five denominations to use it one week each in rotation. At the raising of the present church in 1820, a Mr. Newell was killed and there being no minister in town a Mr. Aiken, a Baptist from Hardwick, was sent for to preach the funeral sermon. His text was, "if a beam fall upon a man and kill him the Lord hath sent it." The suitability of the text aroused the wonder of the good deacons, who immediately began a search and not finding it visited Mr. Aiken and asked where the text was. He said, "I do not remember, gentlemen, but it is somewhere in Josephus."

From 1804 till 1822 the Congregationalists had no settled minister. During that time Salmon King and James Hobart held revivals. In 1822 came William Arms Chapin, the father of Miss Jane Chapin, the Missionary to China. In 1840, the Rev. Samuel R. Hall was installed, to whose care Craftsbury owes much both in the establishment of her Academy and the preservation of her history.

Fourteen years after followed the Rev. Austin O. Hubbard, next the Rev. L. I. Hoadley and then the Rev. E. P. Wild, D. D.

The Methodist Church was organized in 1818, under the auspices of such men as Wilber Fisk, the founder of the school and seminary at Middletown, and Lorenzo Dow. It was united in a circuit with several other towns till 1830 when it became a station of itself. Among its clergy have been, Schuyler Chamberlin, the Aspenwalls, Peter Merrill and many other good men.

A Baptist Society was formed in 1800 and Samuel Churchill was the first pastor. In 1816, Daniel Mason one of the early set-

tlers was ordained pastor and so remained till 1828, when the church was disorganized.

In 1818, the Reformed Presbyterians of Craftsbury organized with 12 persons. It was not until 1833 that their first pastor, Samuel M. Wilson, was called and ordained. Since then such men as Renwick J. Wilson, J. M. Armour and Archibald Johnson have been with them.

Among the disciples of Robert Raikes were Clarissa Clark and Lucy Corey, the founders and teachers of the Sunday School. Besides her labors here Clarissa Clark rode on horseback through the neighboring towns organizing and guiding the Sunday School.

Our Academy was organized in 1829 and the old brick building which stood north of the church was built in 1832. In 1868, a new house was erected on the site of the old Town House and destroyed by fire in 1879.

Among her teachers have been the Rev. S. R. Hall, the Rev. Charles Smith the present editor of the Vermont Chronicle, A. W. Wild, L. H. Thompson, John M. Dutton, Willard W. Miles, George W. Henderson and Leland E. Tupper all of whom achieved success in the pulpit or at the bar. Time would fail to enumerate the list of her pupils who have become famous in the affairs of life.

Our Lodge, Meridian Sun, No. 20, was the fifth one in the State and the first in the County to receive its charter. From it have sprung most of the lodges in this section of the country. During the dark days of Masonry fifty years ago, William Hidden was accustomed to walk to Burlington to attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge and thus he preserved its charter. It had before the separation of the Lodge at Greensboro, a membership of 150, but the founding of this and other lodges and the misfortunes of the last ten years have reduced it somewhat.

To the Scotch who have settled among us and produced such men as the late James W. Simpson, Craftsbury owes much of her intelligence and thrift.

Her freedom from the prejudices of creed and caste deserve special commendation.

In the brief time allotted me by the Committee in which to prepare and to deliver this address I have been compelled to pass over the names and work of many noble men and women but let us console ourselves with the thought that their memories and their deeds are cherished in the hearts of their descendants.

In 1791 Craftsbury had a population of 18; now it numbers 1400 with a Grand List of over \$6000. From one school district in 1796 she has increased to 14. Until 1795, she was the only town represented in the County.

As Sturbridge sent here one hundred years ago the flower of her youth so the Craftsbury of later years has sent her young men and women to the west to be the pioneers of that new country. Wherever they have gone they have carried with them the qualities that command success. To those of her children who are scattered abroad Craftsbury sends the assurance of her tender solicitude for their welfare and to those who celebrate with her today's Centennial, she extends a mother's welcome and bids them all honor the memory of her founders for their ability, their integrity, their private and public virtues.



## CRAFTSBURY SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN AUGUST, 1939

The first meeting of those interested in having a celebration on the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of Craftsbury was held in the Academy building on November 29, 1938. At this time a general committee was elected which at a later meeting organized with Martin S. Sawyer, President, Hon. Horace F. Graham, Vice President, Martha B. Paterson, Secretary, and Euna K. Anderson, Treasurer. Various committees were formed for different features of the celebration and the dates of August twenty-third and twenty-fourth 1939 were finally set for the celebration. Letters were written to the town clerks of the towns in the county and to others originally belonging to the county inviting the towns to participate in the proceedings.

The project undertaken by one of the committees was the redecoration of the Craftsbury room in the Old Stone House at Brownington. This was done. Another committee marked the buildings and sites of historical interest some of which were visited on a pilgrimage on August twenty-third.

On this day a granite marker, which shows the entrance of the Old Hazen Road into Craftsbury from Greensboro, was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies. Addresses were given on this occasion by Mr. Carlyle V. Willey President of the Orleans County Historical Society and by Hon. Horace F. Graham of Craftsbury.

On the evening of August twenty-third an entertainment in the Town Hall portrayed the supposed reminiscences of three men in a local store, thus bringing to remembrance the old time choirs, singing schools, and so forth.

The forenoon of the twenty-fourth was given over to sports and to the exhibits in the gymnasium. This building was fitted up to represent various rooms in a house in the olden time; the kitchen, dining-room, bedroom and parlor all being furnished with articles loaned for the occasion from homes in the town. In the gymnasium also were displayed pictures which were most interesting to the townspeople.

After a cafeteria dinner served in the Academy Building, the afternoon opened with a Parade, led by the Craftsbury Band, and comprising twenty floats, and groups, of local historical interest. In the van, seven episodes from the history of Craftsbury were represented: the first settlers arriving in an old-fashioned two-wheeled ox cart; Mrs. Crafts and her children in their new home, feeding a group of starving Indians; Augusta Crafts, as a bride, riding off on the same horse with her bridegroom, Dr. James Paddock; an Old-Time School with quaintly dressed children sitting on antiquated double seats, the teacher with her rod,

and the dunce on the stool; a group of young men, on horseback and on foot, driving "rustled" cattle back to Craftsbury Common in 1813; a model of the first Academy building of 1829, cleverly made with brick-paper walls, and graceful cupola, complete with its tiny bell; finally, a motor-truck bearing "Craftsbury's Future Citizens"—a child from each of the seven present-day district schools, seated at a modern desk. The three Churches of the Town were next represented: the Congregational Church of Craftsbury Common by a float carrying an old-fashioned Minister and hymn-singing Choir, complete with melodion and ancient song-books; the East Craftsbury Covenanter Church by two Elders carrying a cut-out of the old church building, escorted by two ladies, all in costumes of the last century; and the Craftsbury Village Methodist Church by a dashing Circuit-Rider, with his bulging saddle-bags.

Then came the Town Library, with its old Crafts Family portraits reproduced in living tableau on a float. The John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library float followed, with one group representing the counter of the old Simpson store at East Craftsbury; and another, the book-table with Librarian and young readers, symbolizing the present use of the building. Next, the Craftsbury Community Fair organization was represented by a Roman chariot; and the East Hill Players by Queen Drama, flanked by Comedy and Tragedy, riding in an open automobile.

A decorated automobile represented two of the 4-H clubs of the region, and the young lady members of the Lake Hosmer 4-H Club marched in varied costumes behind a banner reading: "From Hoops to Halters." The Craftsbury Grange was represented by a beautifully decorated auto-truck; and the neighborly good-will of the Town of Albany by an ox-drawn hay-wagon laden with citizens dressed in the best visiting clothes of olden days. Two distinguished ladies of Albany followed, in an automobile—Mrs. Delia Honey and Mrs. Mary Stone, both well over ninety years of age. Finally a group of young people, on foot and on horseback, representing the Summer Colony of Greensboro, formed the rear guard of the Parade.

Following the parade came the literary proceedings of the day with Hon. Horace F. Graham in charge. These exercises took place in the open air on the Common. On the platform were seated Mr. Graham, already mentioned, and the speakers of the day: His Excellency Governor George D. Aiken, Hon. Aaron H. Grout, Mr. Carlyle V. Willey, J. Harry Covington, Mason S. Stone, Mr. Dwinell, Reverend E. O. Barnard, Edward Davit, Charles Plumley, Martin S. Sawyer, President, and the two aged citizens from Albany. The addresses given appear on later pages of this book. The Craftsbury Band under the leadership of Alden Twiss furnished the music.

The Celebration closed, as did the Centennial Celebration fifty years previous, with a fine display of fireworks.



**CRAFTSBURY SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

1789-1939

**The Afternoon of August 23rd**

Setting the markers on the old Hazen Road.

Entertainment and Dance in the Evening.

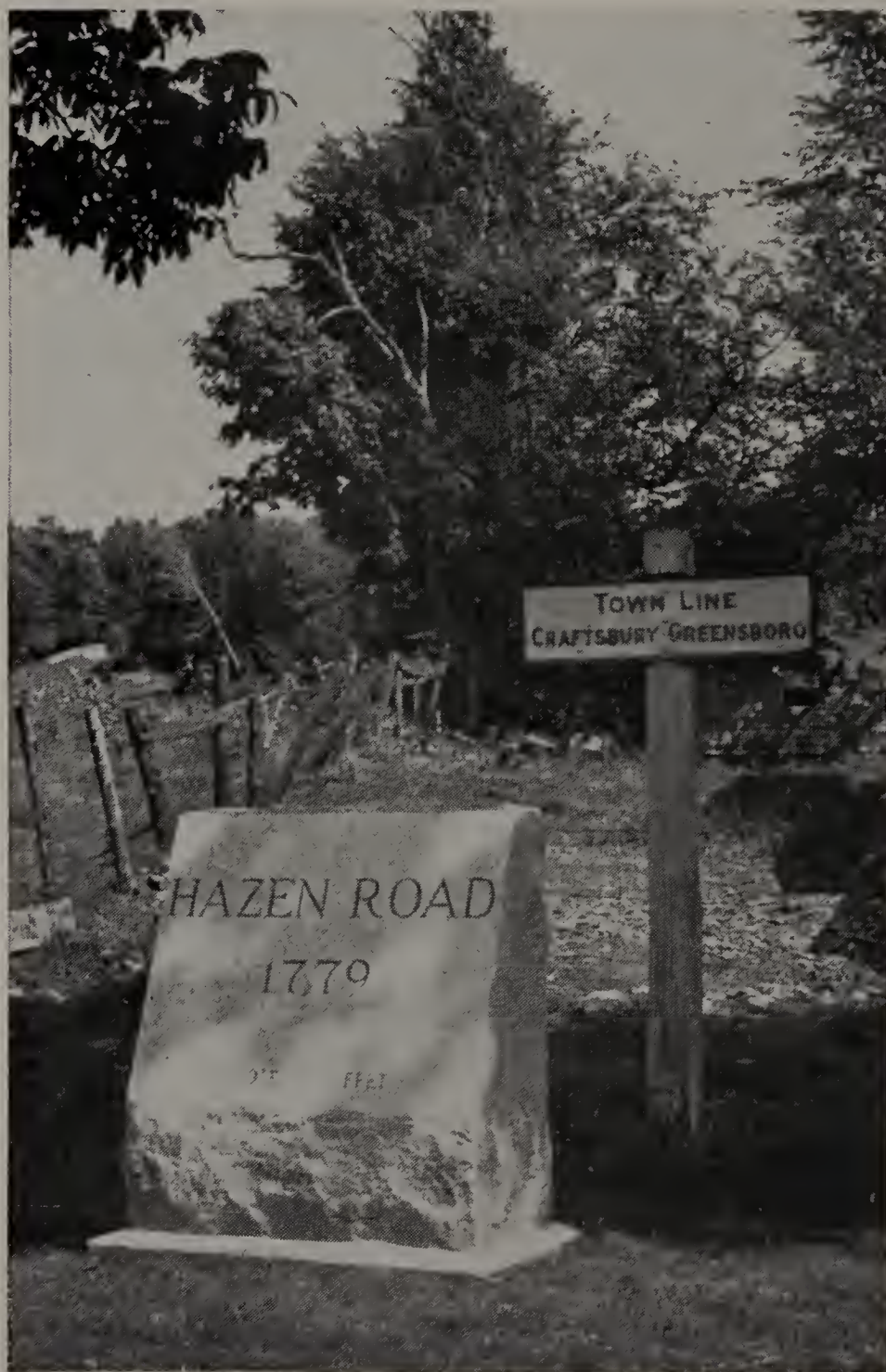
**The Next Day—all day—the 24th**

A Big Parade. Sports. Dinner at noon. Cafeteria style. Governor Aiken is coming. Speeches in the afternoon. Appropriate Literary Proceedings. Flower Show. Surprise in the Evening.

Come and Renew Friendships and Acquaintances.

(The above is the text of the Post-Card Notices of the Craftsbury Sesquicentennial Celebration which were sent out by mail).

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## DEDICATION OF HAZEN ROAD MARKER

The Craftsbury Sesqui-centennial Celebration opened on the afternoon of August 23rd, 1939, with an outdoor ceremony at the side of the highway leading from Greensboro into Craftsbury, a little to the East of the hamlet of East Craftsbury. There about 200 people from Craftsbury and neighboring towns gathered on the road and in the pasture above it for the ceremony of unveiling a granite marker set at the roadside and on the Town Line between Greensboro and Craftsbury. The marker is inscribed: "HAZEN ROAD, 1779," and beneath: "N. 69 E. 536 Feet," the surveyor's figures giving the direction and distance from that point on the modern highway to the nearest point on the Town Line where the old Hazen Road passed into Craftsbury. This road named for its co-builder, General Hazen, was begun by General Bayley of Newbury, under orders of General Washington, and was intended for a military highway to connect the Connecticut Valley settlements with Canada. It passes through Caledonia and Orleans Counties, and ends at Hazen's Notch in the town of Montgomery, where it was abandoned, there being no longer the need for a military road which had prompted its being undertaken in the earlier years.

The dedication ceremonies were opened with a selection by the Craftsbury Band; then followed the Invocation by the Rev. Herbert G. Schulze pastor of the East Craftsbury church, who was introduced by Ex-Governor Horace F. Graham, chairman of the memorial committee. Then the American Flag which was draped over the marker, was withdrawn by the Misses Elizabeth Clapp and Carolyn Anderson, two little girls whose families have played important parts in the history of Craftsbury. Mr. Graham then gave a brief address, outlining the history of the Hazen Road, and calling attention to the importance of such a highway in the birth and development of our communities. Unfortunately his remarks were never written down, so that the interesting and moving address cannot be printed here. Mr. Graham then introduced the main speaker of the occasion, Mr. Carlyle V. Willey, president of the Orleans County Historical Society, the text of whose address follows. The ceremonies were concluded with another selection by the Craftsbury Band.

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### INVOCATION

#### Hazen Road Marker

Aug. 23, 1939.

Eternal God our Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we look to Thee in thanksgiving today for the privilege of dwelling in Thy Created World. We see Thee ex-

pressed in the beauty and loveliness of our surroundings, and sense Thy Presence in the lives of Thy people.

We deeply appreciate the gracious heritage that is ours, and ask that we might be more worthy in the light of the sacrifice and achievement of our Forefathers. We live in comfort and security as typified by this road today, while they struggled in hardship and danger as part and parcel of their mode of travel.

We ask for their courage and endurance as we face difficult modern paths which lead on to new frontiers of mind and spirit. They established our physical surroundings and we today would carry on in their faith in helping build a human community wherein the inherent values of a civilization may expand and grow in truth and worth.

Increase our faith and guide our hearts and lives, in the name of the Pioneer of Life. Amen.

Herbert G. Schulze.

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### HISTORICAL ADDRESS

The following address was given by C. V. Willey, president of the Historical Society at the dedication of the Hazen Road marker.

“Roads are the mark of the advance of civilization. At the dawn of history, when the wandering tribes established a permanent home, roads became a necessity. Historians mention three great highways running out from ancient Babylonia, then the foremost nation of the world. The Carthaginians are credited with the first systematic road building, but the great road builders, of ancient times were the Romans, who linked together their vast empire with permanent roads for travel, commerce and military uses.

“No later inventions of travel, such as the railroad, automobile or airplane, can compare in their influence on our county with the coming of the roads which made what was then only an unbroken forest a part of the civilized world.

“Let us give a little thought to how much a road, however crude, meant to the early settlers. Without a road leading back to civilization, they were obliged to live in huts of hewn logs, for no mill machinery could be brought to them, and they had no mill to grind their grain. They were without carts or wagons of any kind, and could not have those household necessities, the loom, and the great iron kettle for making salts of ashes, for washing or the making of soap or maple sugar. There could be no regular mail, no newspapers, nor communication with distant friends or relatives.



“Previous to the Revolution and for some years after, north-eastern Vermont was an uncharted wilderness, a No Man’s land, whether a part of the colonial provinces or of Canada, no one could know. That it was settled by people from the South, rather than from the North was due to the forethought and initiative of the men of Newbury, which in 1763 became the northern settlement and outpost in what is now eastern Vermont.

“Whatever arguments they advanced to win the approval and aid of General George Washington for the construction of a military road through this wilderness, one of their objects doubtless was to relieve the frontier settlements of the menace of attack from Indians of the North who were resentful at having the planting and hunting grounds which had been theirs from time immemorial, invaded by white intruders.

“No account that I have read of the building of the Hazen Military Road details the obstacles they must have overcome; the thousands of trees felled, and their stumps removed; the hundreds of logs laid in the swamps for corduroy, and the boulders removed with the aid of oxen and horses to make the road passable as their report says ‘for the ordinances of war.’

“That the builders of the road were well armed is evident as no reported attack was made upon them. But in the spring of 1781, two years after the completion of the road, the Indians came probably down the Hazen Road, attacked Peacham, then the new frontier settlement, and carried away two men and a boy prisoners. At once, Captain Nehemiah Loveland was sent with a company of soldiers to protect the inhabitants. In September he sent a scouting party of four men up the new road to discover any signs of Indians. They did not return, and there was no knowledge of their fate until the following summer, when in an exchange of prisoners at Quebec between the British army and the Continentals, two of the party were exchanged and told the story of being attacked in a blockhouse at the west of Caspian Lake in Greensboro. Two of the men were shot down and scalped, while they were taken prisoners and hurried to Quebec. They then led the way to the scene of the engagement where the bodies of the slain soldiers were found and buried where they fell.

“Troopers Bliss and Sleeper, doubtless lads in their teens, as the able bodied men were then in the Continental Army, buried in an unmarked grave on the west shore of beautiful Caspian, were as truly martyrs to the advance of civilization as were many others of whom long histories have been written.

“Today we mark the greatest factor in the development of Orleans county—the Hazen Military Road. Over this road came the settlers of Greensboro, Craftsbury, Albany, Irasburg, and the towns in the Missisquoi Valley. In two years after the incorpora-

tion of the county in 1792, the first county road was built (in 1794-95) from the Hazen Road in Greensboro through Glover, Barton, Brownington, Salem, Derby to Stanstead, thus opening up the eastern part of the county with the Hazen Road as a foundation.

“May we, as the inheritors of what these men laid out, borrow some of their spirit and self-reliance. Could they return now, they would marvel at the countryside as we see it. The modern roads, the green hills and fields would be something beyond their dream. As we dedicate this stone, that marks the beginning of our county, let us dedicate ourselves that in our hands, its grandeur and beauty and the freedom and liberty that they sought, shall not grow less.”

TEXT OF PROGRAM FOR THE AFTERNOON  
OF AUGUST 24, 1939

PROGRAM

Hon. Horace F. Graham, presiding

March—National Emblem Bagley

Invocation—Rev. Carl J. Peterson

Address—Carlyle V. Willey

President Orleans County Historical Society

March—Hail Vermont Perry

Address—His Excellency Gov. George D. Aiken

March—Invercargil Lithgow

Address—Hon. Aaron H. Grout

March—Washington Post Sousa

Remarks by Distinguished Visitors

America—Audience led by Quartet and Band

The Craftsbury Band will furnish the Music.

The Historical Society will meet at the Church  
at 11 o'clock A. M.

## SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

## TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY, VERMONT.

AUGUST 24, 1939

## INVOCATION—REV. O. E. BARNARD.

Let us bow our heads in prayer. O thou eternal God, our fathers trusted in Thee and we, Thy children, look to Thee as our hope and as our strength. We thank Thee for all our blessings, especially for the privilege of being born in the land where there is the recognition of human rights, and as we are met in this beautiful spot this afternoon where so much of Thy glory is being revealed to us in the world of nature, and where our minds are stirred as we think of what has transpired on this historic ground, we would bow in submission, in humility and with thanksgiving, but also with a recognition of our own obligations as sons of those who have lived wisely and have wrought nobly that we might receive the blessings that we today enjoy. We pray Thee, O God, that Thou wilt help us in these days of uncertainty and confusion through which we are passing, that we may do our part as nobly, as loyally and with as much consecration as our fathers did who made possible the blessings of this Town and of this State. Grant Thy blessing, O Lord, we pray Thee upon all those who today have it within their power to carry on and to do the work that needs to be done in these days through which we are passing. Especially grant Thy blessing upon those in places of authority—upon the Governor of this Commonwealth and all associated with him, that they may continue to guide wisely the ship of state and that they may be given wisdom and grace from Thee; and grant, O Lord, that we may all have that spirit of loyalty which shall enable us to live and work and do our part in all the coming days. Grant Thy blessing upon the exercises of this hour, strengthen us that we may do Thy will and bring us to that Heavenly home, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Note: Mr. Barnard officiated on this occasion in the place of Rev. Carl J. Peterson, a former pastor, who had been invited to do so, but was prevented by illness.



## ADDRESS OF CARLYLE V. WILLEY

President, Orleans County Historical Society, Aug. 24, 1939.

Mr. Chairman. First I thank you for dignifying my few remarks as an address, for I can assure you that all addresses to-day will be made by the distinguished speakers a little later on the program.

The Orleans County Historical Society is most deeply indebted to the citizens of Craftsbury and to your committees for this Sesquicentennial Celebration. We thank you for this fitting observance of the event which marks the beginning of the history of our county. The memorials which have been placed by our Society, such as the marking of Runaway Pond in Glover; the Hazen Road in Lowell; the Indian and Pioneer Landing on the Barton River and all the others, have little weight in comparison with the first building of a permanent home in Orleans County by Colonel Ebenezer Crafts in Minden, now Craftsbury.

I ask for only a few minutes of your time to give you a glimpse of the purpose of our Society. It was formed in 1853, eighty-six years ago. The objects are expressed in the first article of the constitution then adopted: "To promote the study of Natural History, primarily in Orleans County and Northern Vermont, and to collect and preserve while the early settlers are able to furnish them, the items of interest in the civil history of the County, which would otherwise be lost to the future historian." That this was possible at that time is proven by the selection of the first president of the Society. They chose a man who with his father had been the first settlers in Orleans County; a man whose record can hardly be equalled in this state or in any other: A graduate of Harvard College, afterward Chief Judge of the Orleans County Court; President of the Convention for Revision of the State Constitution; Governor of Vermont; Representative in Congress, and United States Senator—the Honorable Samuel Chandler Crafts of Craftsbury.

In later years, Gov. Horace F. Graham of Craftsbury also served for many years as President of this organization.

Thus being so intimately connected with your distinguished citizens and your town, our Society is honored to the greatest degree by the invitation to be your guests on this occasion.

Always, in every society, when everyone is enjoying the festivities to the utmost, someone arises to throw a cold, wet blanket on the occasion. Faces which were wreathed in smiles become overcast and sorrow reigns supreme, for someone has brought up the subject of membership and dues. This is now my duty and pleasure. The continuation of carrying on the objects of

our Society "to preserve those items of interest in our civil history which would otherwise be lost to the future historian," papers such as will be given by the principal speaker today and a marker for the graves of Troopers Bliss and Sleeper in Greensboro can only be done by your support and by your continued support.

In a territory so large as our County, it is almost impossible to make a personal appeal to all who are interested. It must be voluntary to a great degree. The cost of membership is not excessive—\$1.00, and \$.50 dues thereafter. Mr. Carroll Jenkins, our Treasurer, will be pleased to attend to you. May this Society, founded by Samuel Crafts and his associates, and continued so many years, have your active assistance?

Contrary to the belief of most of you, this celebration does not end tonight, for as a memorial of this occasion, one of the committees of this Sesquicentennial celebration has finished the decoration and furnishing of a room in the Old Stone House in Brownington as a Craftsbury Memorial Room. The official opening of this room with a picnic lunch at noon will be held there at some later date.

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## ADDRESS—HIS EXCELLENCY

### GOV. GEORGE D. AIKEN

Governor Graham, Ladies and Gentlemen on the platform, folks in Craftsbury, and neighbors of Orleans County, and I see some from more distant points. This is certainly a delightful audience gathered here in Craftsbury today. I have seen the historical parade depicting the historical events of the early days of this town and I feel I am speaking to a typical Vermont audience, made up partly of people born and brought up here and partly of folks that have come to Craftsbury we will say years ago, expecting to remain temporarily and deciding to stay indefinitely for the rest of their days. And then as I look around the audience I see quite a few people who haven't been in Vermont long enough yet to get the fragrance of balsam permanently fixed in their hair. But that is the finest fragrance in the world as you will learn later on.

I am spending a good deal of time these days in attending Old Home Days and Centennials and Sesqui-Centennials, but they all take the form of Old Home Day. I think that is just about one of the finest institutions that there is in the world—when folks get together in their neighborhood and folks who lived there years before come back and others come in to participate in these affairs.



Old Home Day originated, as you know, in New Hampshire. But I think it has been brought to perfection in Vermont. Community loyalty today is stronger in our own State of Vermont than in any other State in the Union, and we have strong loyalty to our State, as well as to our community. During the last few years people outside have viewed this loyalty of Vermonters to their community and their State with mixed and rather divergent feelings. Many folks have regarded this State of ours as something that has given them a feeling of security. I fear that a few others have regarded us as a stumbling block in the attainment of their ambitions. I don't know just what it is that makes Vermonters what they are, why they are so intensely loyal to their State and to their own peculiar form of government—our Town Meeting form of government, which is the nearest to being a government of the people of any government in the world. Possibly it is the type of people that settled Vermont, that came up here because they loved liberty. They felt irked by the oppression of the distant government of the older colonies of New England, and they came up here to a rich land where they could enjoy freedom of worship and a right to control their own local affairs.

It has been said that these early people who settled Vermont were fearless. I have spent a good deal of my spare time, the time I take—you might not call it spare time exactly—in reading early Vermont history and first-hand accounts that have been written either in longhand or in the laborious printing of that day and all through those records, I find that early Vermonters and those who have lived in Vermont for generations since have had one fear, and that is a fear that some day they might have to be supported by somebody else. Evidently, from those early days Vermonters haven't felt that God owed them a living, or that their government owed them a living; but they have felt that the opportunity to earn their own living and to support themselves was about the highest privilege which could be accorded in this mortal world. (Applause)

Vermonters in those early days must have been imbued with more than their share of hope and gratitude. I read one account written by a man who came to Vermont just before the beginning of the nineteenth century and he recorded his misfortunes about losing his wife, leaving him with a large family, and losing two of his children from disease, and he recorded the fact that he froze his feet one winter, that he was sick all one summer with the fever and he finished up in the poorhouse, where this record was made, still thanking God for the blessings that had been bestowed upon him.—And if he could be thankful under those circumstances, I think that we folks who live here in Vermont today and look around at our green hills and our good crops and our good neighbors will also be in a position to thank God this fall on November 30th. (Applause)

And I think another thing that ails Vermonters and causes us to be criticised in certain circles is the environment of the hills. There is something about them that makes us feel a little different. Another thing is the Town Meeting form of government which our early founders gave to us, and which we have found satisfactory ever since. And these Old Home Days have had their effect on the affairs of our country during the last few years. We are having Old Home Day or Sesqui-Centennial, or something that answers for an Old Home Day, in probably one hundred and fifty towns and villages in Vermont this year, as we have been doing it during the last few years. When the people come back from the other States and attend these meetings, they renew their faith in our American form of government, and when they leave us they go out into the rest of the country and they preach the gospel of Vermont, which has been very sadly needed in many parts of the Nation.

A couple of days ago I was over in Plattsburg where the army manoeuvres are being held. As I drove around there some of the time in no-man's land, between the lines, shooting at each other with all kinds of guns, fortunately loaded with blanks, fortunately for me—I had rather mingled feelings. I had a feeling of pride that we have such a magnificent body of men to defend our country in case of need. And let me tell you that the boys from Vermont will stand up with the best of them over there, and I think a little better.

But mixed with this feeling of pride was a hope and a prayer that none of them would ever be called upon to give their lives in a foreign country, fighting a foreign war for a foreign cause. (Applause) I stopped for breath, and not applause.

And then I went to mess that noon and I ate dinner with the military observers from the foreign countries (I think there were twenty-three of them there representing twenty-one different countries). Those men talking Spanish and German and Japanese, and I don't know what not, were sitting down there, eating dinner together. I don't think one of them hated any other man there. They didn't act as if they did. I don't believe that the people of their country hate the people of the other foreign countries. The military attache from Japan sat down beside me. I didn't get the feeling that he wanted to kill me, I didn't get any idea that he even wanted to hurt me in any way. Yet every one of those military men there knows that perhaps tomorrow and perhaps next month and perhaps next year they and their people may be called upon to fly at the throats of the man sitting next to him.

And the reason today, I believe, that hundreds of millions of people in this world, living constantly in the shadow of war, and in fear that their boys may be called to a foreign country



to die there, is due to the fact that in too many countries today the people of those countries have delegated the authority that properly belongs to them to a central government composed of one man, or at the most a group of men. And when we see the situation confronting us today, it should make us more determined than ever that we will never delegate our own American form of government and the privileges and responsibilities that go with it to any central authority,—that sooner or later would abuse it, just as surely as it has been done in the countries of Europe.

And these Old Home Days throughout Vermont and New England, and the rest of the country, as far as they reach, are one of our best assurances that this will never be done. Because we cannot have a meeting like this without renewing our faith, as I said in the beginning, in our own form of government, and just so long as our members of Congress show the courage that they have during this last session; just so long as the Legislators of Vermont show the spirit they have in refusing to surrender that sovereignty that belongs to her, either because of the offer of bribes or the threat of reprisals if we don't—and just so long as the people of our State back up these public servants of theirs as they have done for me during the last two and one-half years, I don't think we need to worry that we are going to lose the right to be self-governing. Thank you.

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## ADDRESS OF HON. AARON H. GROUT

August 24, 1939

I sincerely appreciate the invitation of Gov. Graham which gives me the opportunity to be a participant in this most worthwhile memorial occasion, and to meet again with my Orleans County neighbors. It seems good to come home, and I assure you that Orleans County will be my correct spelling of "home" so long as I shall live. My dearest friendships, my most cherished memories and associations are here, and no matter where I may roam, the homing pigeon of my thoughts will often come to rest on the beautiful hills and in the charming valleys of this county and among you, my neighbors and friends.

The time has come in the age of our nation and its component parts when centennial and sesquicentennial observances of historic local or national events are quite the order of the day. How appropriate and fine it is that we pause in our busy lives and contemplate the doings of a hundred or more years ago, and pay homage to the men and women of that day, who, venturing bravely and suffering much, laid solid foundations upon which succeeding generations have built a superstructure symbolic of



a national progress and prosperity and of an individual comfort and satisfaction far beyond that produced by any like period in the history of the world.

What parallels can be drawn and what comparisons can be made in the daily living, the comforts, the pleasures and advantages enjoyed by us and those enjoyed by the hardy pioneers of one hundred and fifty years ago who wrenched their homes from the virgin forest in the now county of Orleans and began that which has developed into the beauty and substance upon which your eyes now rest if you look in any direction, except toward the speaker. We have progressed from the tallow dip, through kerosene lamp to the electric light; from the ox team, through those "horse and buggy" days, which our modern young folks refer to with contempt, to our motor vehicles and 50 or more miles per hour; from a trip of several weeks on foot or horseback to Boston town, through the stagecoach and railroad eras, to the airplane, which makes the journey in a mere couple of hours; from the days when music, oratory and entertainment could be enjoyed only by those in the presence of the entertainer, to the radio which instantly transmits its program, including the advantages of liver pills, face creams, cure alls and what not, to a listening audience by firesides in homes located in far distant reaches of the world; from the cooling agency of the rippling brook to the modern mechanically operated, automatic and iceless refrigerator; from the weekly or less often bath in wash basin, pan or old swimming hole to the daily morning shower and the luxurious tub; from the observance of Sunday as a holy day of rest from labor, to the morning church service, if nothing interferes, and the afternoon ball game and movies; from a state legislature of 40 to 50 members, to a House of Representatives of 247 (but whether or not the last two spell progress I leave you to say); and finally from the beginning of our nation, conceived in a righteous indignation and the courage of a hardy pioneer people, through a startling and tremendous development, to the proud position we hold in the family of nations; a beginning in poverty overcome by thrift and hard work, through disastrous depressions, also overcome by economy, to the tenth year of the last and longest depression in our history, witnessing the failure of seven successive years of unprecedented spending of public money as the only depression cure offered. How have we departed from the wisdom and experience of the past! How soon shall we see the end?

My invitation contained a very definite suggestion that I heed that old quip which tells us that "brevity is the soul of wit." Hence I cannot attempt detail or an analyzing of cause and effect. The details, which were the cause, have been so many times published, and the effect, which is in plain sight about us, indicate that little more than a cursory review need be attempted.

According to best authority it was one hundred fifty one years ago this summer that Col. Ebenezer Crafts, of heroic service in the Revolution, journeyed north to the wilderness acres which had been granted to him and others by the new republic of Vermont in recognition of the services he had rendered. He opened a passable road from Cabot, cleared several acres along what was later known as Trout Brook near the Creek Road from Craftsbury to Albany, built a cabin and sawmill. When winter descended upon his labors, as it still has a way of doing in this region, he was compelled to abandon the project until spring. With the spring of 1788 arrived the Trumbull and Cutler families settling on what has been known as the Harriman Place, but Cutler alone braved the following winter and was, perhaps, the first really permanent settler in town. Undoubtedly Col. Crafts returned in the summer time to extend his land clearing, road building, etc., but so far as I can find it was in February, 1791, over snow so deep, at the end of the journey, that the men could travel only on snowshoes, drawing the women and supplies on hand sleds, when he brought his family from Sturbridge, Mass., to his new home, and with him came a goodly number of settlers, among them the Babcock, Corey, Mason, Lyon and Scott families, who, with the Crafts and Cutler families, lived to indelibly stamp their personalities and their characters on the development of the town, county and state.

Craftsbury was chartered as the Town of Minden in 1781, and so continued until 1790 when the name was changed to honor Col. Crafts who had broken the trail and pointed the way to the fertile acres and sylvan beauty of the town which was organized at the home of Col. Crafts, with full complement of town officers, on March 15, 1792.

When the town was chartered it was a part of Chittenden County. Later it was set off into the new County of Caledonia, and still later found its final geographical place as one of the towns in the newly created County of Orleans.

Thus, in a meager way, was Craftsbury started, amid all the privation and hardship of frontier life, when the nearest neighbor was miles away, when a trip to the nearest store was a day's journey, when it was weeks and months between letters from friends and relatives, when babies were born without the aid of doctors; but what a magnificent result in progress and development has been attained by its loyal, intelligent and energetic citizens. It is a record equaled by few and bettered by none.

Craftsbury was the first town settled and the first town organized in the northeastern part of our state. Before the settlers came little is known of the presence of white people in this vicinity. A few trappers, perhaps, prior to 1787, and, of course, the continuing of the military road ordered by Gen. Washington



in 1776 to connect the Connecticut River at or near Wells River with St. Johns, Quebec, which was thrust through Orleans County in 1779 by Col. Moses Hazen to and through the notch which now bears his name and is a part of the present highway between Lowell and Montgomery. It is also probably true that some parts of the retreating ranger band of Major Rogers, returning to old Number Four of the Connecticut River after a successful punitive raid against the St. Francis Indians in Canada, traversed parts of Orleans County and perhaps Craftsbury. For ever and ever so long, of course, the Indians, both local and from Canada, had enjoyed the forests abounding with game and the lakes, ponds and streams teeming with fish, and probably considered them as their very own and an insurance against any want or need which their simple natures might conceive; but such natural abundance, beauty and soil fertility were bound to be taken from them by the more enlightened, ambitious and progressive whites and by them converted into the fertile farms; the charming villages; the excellent schools; the homey homes; the beauty spots of hill and vale, of rippling brook and crystal clear lake and pond; the excellent churches; the adequate merchandising centers; and the modern highways which make neighborliness mean more than it did a hundred and fifty years ago.

Following settlements in Craftsbury and Greensboro, other pioneering minded families treked their way from Connecticut and Massachusetts to the upper reaches of Orleans County. One of my ancestors, on my mother's side, settled in Derby in 1791 and from about that time until 1917, a farm of substantial acreage with a homestead very dear to me, where I spent my boyhood days, the erection of which was begun in 1812 and completed in 1815, it being the first frame house in that town, remained in the ownership and occupation of a descendant of the original settler, Benjamin Hinman. The war of 1812 materially slowed and even decreased settlement of the northern towns of the county, but soon thereafter the fear abated, more settlers arrived and those towns rapidly came forward and helped materially to create, develop and maintain that finished picture which we now view with justifiable pride and know as Orleans County.

Craftsbury, it seems to me, was distinctive in its early religious life and in its attitude toward education. Several of its first settlers were college graduates and they brought to their new wilderness homes a culture not always found in new places, but which had a distinct and powerful influence on the moulding of the town and the character of its people even to the present day. Schools were early in the thoughts of the settlers and provisions adequate to the time were made without delay, to be followed as early as 1829 with a chartered academy, which for



more than a century has well cared for the intellectual needs of higher education in the classics and in character building and in fitting boys and girls for college.

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One name stands out prominently in the early history of this town. Samuel Crafts, son of Col. Ebenezer, served his town, county and state in about all the offices of public service. He was, among other positions held, town clerk for a long period, judge of the County Court while Craftsbury was one of two county seats in the County of Orleans, member of the State Legislature, and for several sessions the only member residing in Orleans County, governor, member of Congress and United States Senator. His record as a public servant was enviable from every angle, and his name and good works bring glamour, honor and romance to the history of the town which recognized his ability and started him on his career.

From Gov. Crafts time to the present the roster of Craftsbury's citizens has contained the names of many men and women who have contributed nobly and well in public service to the betterment of their town and county and whose influence has been felt for good in the affairs of our state and even beyond. To name them all would take up the balance of my allotted time, but I cannot pass on without mentioning our dear friend and valued public servant, Gov. Graham, who, I am thankful to say, has been spared to preside at these exercises and who, I hope, may be spared for many years to come; and that young woman who has graced the public service of this town in the State Legislature, performed valuable service in the archives of the United States Senate and is now leading and guiding the young women of our state university with her wise, kindly and sympathetic advice, Miss Mary Jean Simpson.

On occasions of this kind we are inclined to remain in retrospect and dwell upon the past and all the fine things which that past has made possible. I hope I may be pardoned if I leave the retrospect and dwell for a time in the present and immediate future.

Thrift, economy, sound business judgment and carefulness and slowness in jumping into new fads and fancies are typically Vermont characteristics, coming to us direct and without filtration from our forbears who laid the foundation of the prosperity and good fortune we have enjoyed most of the time up to the last decade. During this last decade a revolution has been in process, not a revolution of bloodshed and fighting, but a very apparent change and evolution in political and economic thought. This evolution is not superficial nor a mere passing fad. It is fundamental and dips down to the very bottom of our political and economic set-up.

I was once privileged to listen to a most able speaker who outlined the evolution of civilization, moving from plane to plane, through revolutions, either mental or in actual warfare, out of each of which disturbances a higher plane emerged which brought to the people of the world a higher culture, better living conditions, greater freedom, and an expanded industrial activity. The world is now in the midst of such a revolution from which we hope a higher plane will be reached after all the issues and ideas of a dissatisfied and groping universe have been tested and sifted. In such transition periods many strange and even startling theories are to be expected. Out of the armed revolution of the 13 colonies, in a short transition period, emerged the higher plane of democracy with its blessings of liberty, free speech, free thought, incentive to individual effort, freedom of choice in religious preferences and a government by and for the people. From our Civil War emerged the abolition of human slavery in all civilized lands.

When Germany set out to conquer the world in 1914, the transition period through which we are now passing had its inception. As the clouds of battle rolled away after the armistice, practically the whole world found itself in a most unsettled frame of mind. Out of the mental chaos following that war we have seen the rise of that startling experiment known as Communism, in Russia, by no means an acknowledged success but rather apparently losing its grip. We have seen the Fascist dictatorship of Italy and its unregenerate off-spring, the Nazi lord of Germany, deliberately cruel and erasing all individual liberties. We have seen the greedy, clutching hand of these dictatorships reaching for the control of small and helpless nations, while the pacifist controlled big brothers of the helpless are loud with talk but meek in defending against the bully's demands.

In our own country we have seen an unprecedented centralization of the control of individual and state functions; curtailment of liberties, attacks upon the constitution and the interpreting agency of that great guaranty of democracy, a wholly new economic theory which substitutes the useless hoarding of gold, a one-man power to determine at will the value of our currency, and a huge spending of public funds, all to lift us from the depression, for the wisdom and experience of history which has taught us to rely for prosperity on thrift and saving; on a sound currency value; on the ownership of no more gold than is necessary to make our money circulation secure from fluctuation; on the absolute integrity of the constitution as a guaranty rather than a mere convenient instrument to legalize fads and fancies; on the full enjoyment of those personal and state functions which our forefathers so carefully planned for our benefit. Who knows? Perhaps these new theories are the solution which will lift us to our next higher plane of culture, comfort and prosperity. It may be too early to judge fairly, but seven years of



the failure of these theories to end the depression leave some of us cold and discouraged. And yet we must not lose sight of the fact that almost every step ahead in our history has found opposers who have vehemently declared and honestly believed that the end of democracy and even of the country itself was near at hand if that which such opponents felt to be new, untried and unsafe, should prevail. How wrong they were and how right were the exponents of the new ideas! It only goes to show that a standpatter may utterly mire his feet in tried but outmoded policies.

Yes, indeed, we have always had our "old man Grundy." When a constitution was proposed for adoption in the new republic of the United States, old Grundy said, and probably believed, that its adoption would undo all that the recent bloodshed, sacrifice and suffering had accomplished, and bind us down with chains more galling than any Britain had forged. Yet that constitution was adopted and has proved its worth and the wisdom of adopting it. When the great Lincoln, confronted with the dissolution of our Union by rebellion, answered that that Union must be preserved and that no part thereof had the right of secession, the Grundys arose and prophesied dire and terrible things from plain defeat of Lincoln's dream to the very extinction of the Republic. And now history repeats itself while experiments with radically new ideas of economic stability are tried. For these new ideas now commonly called the "New Deal," very definite results were promised, within very definite times now long past, namely, that the problem of unemployment would be largely solved, and that the depression would end. A mainstay of the New Deal has been free and freer spending of public money, yet after seven years of this experiment we are about where we started as to unemployment, and the depression lifts only while the public funds are pouring out which must be repaid in the form of government bonds, and it rears its ugly head the instant government spending is curtailed.

To some of us who are open minded and quite willing to adopt any policy which will be of real benefit to all our people, it seems that the spending experiment has totally failed and that this nation is twenty five billion dollars nearer insolvency than it was seven years ago, for the resources of even this great nation cannot stand mounting deficits forever. That is a problem in subtraction which merely proves itself.

At the risk of being called a Grundy, which I should very much dislike, and reiterating that I am one of an army of open minds ready and anxious to join hands with any proposer of a plan which will actually bring results, I am free to say that, after seven years of famine, I want to try some new experiment, and that I look at the future with discouragement and even dismay if the New Deal, as now administered, holds over another four



years. The New Deal has not shortened the period of revolution which represents transition to a higher plane of civilization. This revolution must continue through more experiments until a solution of our problem shall at last be found.

You may laugh in your sleeves, but I am in a critical frame of mind. I am, rather, verging toward hopelessness because our colic is no better after all the bitters we have taken. I care not from what political source the satisfactory solution comes. It may, even yet, emerge from the Democratic party. If the Republican party could win an election pretty soon, I would have confidence in that direction, but to win I fear there will have to be some change of tactics and some outspokenly progressive suggestions with unity and harmony behind them, besides a big slice of votes from some other party. I say this despite the fact that I have never yet voted anything but the Republican ticket. Following our two crushing defeats a large number of loyal republicans have patiently awaited the announcement of some constructive party suggestions in accord with changed political thought and designed to offer a better working plan than the one in use, but over the horizon has come only the New Deal for the people to think about with its many ramifications of money spending.

It is poor sportsmanship and poor politics to be merely a dog in the manger and decry what the other fellow is doing, and honestly believes to be right, without offering constructive suggestions to take the place of the policies one opposes. Plenty of such suggestions have come from individual republicans, but nothing with any party unity behind it. Even old Vermont, through its governor whom we all admire, has warned the powers that be in present day republicanism and voiced valuable suggestions for party welfare and success, but no party declaration in tune with the times comes to the light of day on this eve of a general election which is so vital in the pending evolution to a higher plane of living.

Do our people want a change in the experimenting of government? Plenty of straws in recent months point that way. Have our people now come to believe that a wise application of old time thrift to some of the new ideas and an abandonment of other new notions, would provide us with an experiment possessing better possibilities of success than the one now in vogue? Plenty of straws so indicate. How, then, can we best insure that the will of the people shall prevail?

First, by offering the people a truly progressive, sound, economical code of ideas, popularly known as a party platform.

Secondly, by finding or creating a party which will wholeheartedly and honestly do its best, if elected, to enact its party pledges into law.

First, then, as to the platform. Among many other things it might well promise the people a really and truly balanced budget; a curtailment of bureaucracies; restoration to state and individuals of many rights and privileges usurped by the government in recent years; a new declaration of faith in and allegiance to our constitution, that effective guaranty of state's rights and freedom of the individual; a continuation of old age assistance and other social security features, but upon an early self sustaining basis, supported by capital and labor alike, and administered on the basis of need; a revamping of labor legislation to define the rights and privileges of both employer and employee, and to provide a non partisan, non political federal labor court, instead of the N L R B, empowered to settle all disputes between labor and capital, to the end that peace may prevail instead of John L. Lewis warfare, and the recognizing of labor as an equal partner with capital in all business; a fair and reasonable attitude toward business and a recognition of industry as the factor in our system which can and will provide for the working man, and, above all, will provide, through the wages it pays, an adequate and profitable market for agricultural production; and last a guaranty of a "square deal" to all, playing no favorites and holding no grouches. The enactment into law of such a platform would revive confidence, cheer the hearts of industry, agriculture and labor, and provide the incentive through and by which this great country of ours would pull itself up by its boot straps from the slough of depression and thrust forward with courage toward the higher plane we would then be sure to reach.

Secondly as to the party. I look forward to the possibility yes, the probability, of another four years of the new deal with fear. The emergency merits sacrifice, even to the extent of a realignment of so-called party affiliations. The past year has clearly shown a split in the republican ranks. There are now "stand-patters" and the liberal wing. The same applies to the democratic party. There are now conservatives and "new-dealers." The liberal republicans and the conservative democrats have lately shown their strength and accomplished a great deal. Both are open to wise suggestions and they are now thinking much alike. United they could stand for great accomplishment, but divided their influence for better things is only sporadic. If these two elements could be welded into a new party and under a new name; if the leaders of each of these wings could have the courage to make an early announcement of a coalition, the small snow ball, so started, would roll itself to tremendous proportions and would, I believe, sweep through the 1940 elections like an avalanche.

So great is the power of psychology in politics and one's mental reaction that while the democratic solid south is now substantially disloyal to the new deal, its dislike for the word republican as a party name would overcome that disloyalty and



keep the south democratic even if it meant a continuation of our present regime. Not so if a new party came into being.

I am persuaded and almost convinced that if the present republican party, burdened with its past follies, prejudices and mistakes, meets the present democratic party similarly burdened, in the next campaign, the democrats, and probably Mr. Roosevelt, will win. The prejudice of a mere name is a mighty strong factor in determining a voter's allegiance. If, however, the liberal republicans and the conservative democrats can meet on the common, progressive ground they now occupy and under a new name which will indicate a changed political and economic thought, they can go far, accomplish much, and bring us back stability and confidence.

I realize, my friends, that I have stepped outside the usually expected remarks on occasions such as this, and I know I am seriously overrunning my time limit. I am retired from politics, but I cannot lose interest in those things which my thoughtful consideration prompts me to believe are for the best interest of our country as a whole. In what I feel is the danger of the present day trend, I cannot resist the temptation to pass on to you for your thoughtful consideration my convictions, nor can I resist the temptation to point out to you how far we have strayed from the concepts of those forefathers who wrested our rich realm from Great Britain and established the first republic.

Imagine, if you can, those forefathers embarking on a spending spree to solidify and bring permanent prosperity to the new government they had organized! Imagine, if you can, a farmer, merchant or industrialist, in the old days or now, running his business year after year in the red! A man, a corporation, or a nation, living on more and more borrowed money all the time, faces bankruptcy when security for the mounting debt falls short, and the resources of this country are not inexhaustible.

We owe the strong, courageous, pioneering, thrifty men and women of one hundred and fifty years ago a debt of gratitude which can never be paid, but, right now, we owe them our humble apologies for our wayward departure from the heritage of common sense which they bequeathed unto us.



## REMARKS BY DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

August 24, 1939

JUDGE J. HARRY COVINGTON.

Governor Graham, Ladies and Gentlemen :

At this late time in the afternoon I would not have the temerity even to attempt a speech. Moreover, I have been much impressed with the fact that the Vermonter always is both direct and precise in what he writes or says, and the note which I received from Governor Graham, in which he honored me by inviting me to be present on this occasion, suggested that I "say a few words." I shall respect the Governor's precision.

May I tell you an incident which illustrates the value of brevity in speech. A good many years ago, at one of the famous annual dinners of the St. Nicholas Society in New York, after there had been extended talks, from a too long list of speakers one occasionally sees at public dinners, the principal speaker was introduced and said, simply but feelingly, to the assembly: "Demosthenes is dead; Cicero is dead, and I am not feeling very well myself." He then sat down, and it was universally acclaimed by his audience that he had made the great hit of the evening.

I merely wish to say to you, as one who has transplanted himself to Vermont to enjoy its quiet and its beauty, that it is an ever increasing pleasure for me to see the varied loveliness of the State. With its glorious Green Mountains, and its deep and winding valleys, it seems a peaceful sanctuary to which one may come for seclusion, reflection and happiness.

This village of Craftsbury Common, the settlement of which you are gathered today to commemorate, is typical of what Vermont has been and still is. It sprang from courage; it was nurtured in independence; it survives in all its vigor through the spirit of self-reliance. And one may be quite satisfied that no matter what may be the varied problems which confront our country, and regardless of the temporary ascendancy of alien ideas and fruitless experiments, the courage, comprehension and patriotism which the Vermonter has possessed from the beginning will be a vital force in keeping America in the path of liberty, security of individual rights, and that freedom which the fathers so dearly bought.

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HON. CHARLES H. PLUMLEY.

Governor Graham, ladies and gentlemen, I have held almost as many offices in the State of Vermont as did Samuel Chandler Crafts. We have omitted here today to hear from any of the

speakers something about him which I know. In 1908, as Clerk of the House, I happened to take up the list of names of those who had preceded me in that office and the name of Samuel Chandler Crafts stuck out like a sore thumb. He was Clerk of the House of Representatives in 1798 and 1799. Prior to that time he had been a member of the House. He was the United States delegate to the Constitutional Convention. You do well to honor your distinguished citizen. His life was effective, it was an influence for good. He was elected to Congress, he didn't like it, he stayed as long as his duties seemed to compel him. He came back here to Craftsbury. Upon the death of a certain Senator, he was appointed to fill out the unexpired term, and he served from something like April '42, to March '43, and then came back to Craftsbury to live. He was an integral part of this stubborn soil and he came back here and is buried on this hill with its New England high horizon.

I can sympathize with the last speaker. I received a note from Horace Graham and now I know as of old what to do when I get a note from Horace Graham. I am something in the situation of the man in my Town who was called the town fool. A man lost a cow there and the neighbors all turned out and hunted about a week to find the cow and the cow was not found. One day in came George, the town fool, leading the cow. "Well, George," he was asked, "how did you happen to find the cow?" "Well," he says, "you know I thought what I would do if I was a cow, and I did it, and there she was." So when I got this letter from Horace Graham and a notice by Cy Searles that I was in debt for my dues, I knew what to do—and I thank you very much.

## CELEBRATION OF THE VERMONT SESQUICENTENNIAL IN CRAFTSBURY 1941

In accordance with an article in the *Warning* for the Town Meeting of 1940, the Selectmen appointed a committee to arrange for the celebration of the Vermont Sesquicentennial throughout the year 1941, in Craftsbury, as in many other towns of the State. The members of this Committee were: Jean W. Simpson, Chairman; William Tillotson; Henry Clapp, and Vernon Dunn.

The first Vermont Sesquicentennial Celebration in Craftsbury was held on Town Meeting Day, March 4th, 1941. At nine o'clock in the morning the song "Jubilee," written especially for the occasion by Judge Wendell P. Stafford, was sung in all the schools in Town. This song was sung again, in the afternoon by a large gathering of citizens in the Town Hall, following the presentation of a scene entitled: "The First Town Meeting in Craftsbury." This was a dramatization, prepared by the Committee, from the records of the first three Town Meetings, held in 1792, 1793, and 1794. An historical address, written for the occasion by Hon. Horace F. Graham, was read by Ray Talbert, Principal of Craftsbury Academy, Mr. Graham being absent due to illness.

At the 1941 Town Meeting it was resolved to hold a Vermont Sesquicentennial Celebration in August, in place of the usual Craftsbury Community Fair. The Town also voted to purchase a national flag, and a State flag, to be flown at either side of the Soldiers' Monument on Craftsbury Common. These flags were raised for the first time on Memorial Day.

In the early spring, the Committee sponsored an essay contest on Vermont history in Craftsbury Academy, and another in the graded schools of the Town. The winners, whose names were announced at the Memorial Day exercises in Academy Hall, were as follows: in the Academy, 1st and 2nd prizes, Irene Urie and Lucille Lussier; in the graded schools, 1st and 2nd prizes, Dean Urie and Ronald Daniels.

At the suggestion of the Committee, various organizations in Town presented special Sesquicentennial programs throughout the spring and summer. Also six permanent signs reading: "Craftsbury—Settled 1789" were placed on the Town Line at the side of the principal roads leading into the Town.

The Town Celebration, held in accordance with the resolution passed at Town Meeting, took place on Thursday and Friday, August 21 and 22. Thursday evening, in the Town Hall, there was an entertainment which included the dramatization of the First Town Meeting; singing by the Craftsbury Male



Quartet comprised of Rev. Herbert Schulze, Alden Twiss, Henry Clapp and Alex Harper; singing by the Girls' "Sesqui Chorus"; tap-dancing by Jean Galgano, a young summer visitor from New York; and moving-pictures of the Pageant celebrating the Centennial of Craftsbury Academy in 1929. Dancing followed the program.

Friday forenoon there was a baseball game on Craftsbury Common between the Town Teams of Craftsbury and Hardwick, resulting in a score of 6 to 5 in favor of Craftsbury. During the day many holiday-makers enjoyed an exhibition of antique furniture and utensils in the Academy Gymnasium. There were also demonstrations of old-time industries: candle-dipping, weaving, etc. Artistic flower arrangements were on display at the entrance.

In Academy Hall, paintings by local artists were on exhibition, also about fifty photographs of fine old Vermont buildings loaned by the Fleming Museum in Burlington.

After a basket lunch, supplemented by light refreshments sold at booths opposite the Academy, the Grand Parade took place. This was led by members of the American Legion, preceded by a marshal on horseback, and followed by the Craftsbury Band. Next came the "State Ladies," a group of fourteen young ladies dressed in flowing robes of red, white and blue, representing the thirteen original States, and Vermont. Groups of children from the six district schools also marched. A series of automobile and horse-drawn floats followed, representing the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library; the Craftsbury Public Library; the Hosmer Lake, Goose Peak, Greensboro Sunbeams and Caspian Lake 4-H Clubs; the Patmos Peak Patrol of Girl Scouts; Craftsbury Community Grange; the Fin Fur, and Feather Club; the East Hill Players; Far Horizons Summer Camp. The Town fire-truck followed, and the Craftsbury Garage wrecker; then came a group of young people from the Greensboro Summer Colony, on horseback, and the Parade wound up with an imitation Calliope contrived by the Mueller Family of Montclair, New Jersey, and of Craftsbury.

An amplifying system was installed at the Band Stand by John P. King, a young member of the Craftsbury Summer Colony; and announcements, including descriptions of the floats as they passed in the Parade, were made through the microphone by Durward Gebbie. At 2.30 P. M. Governor W. H. Wills spoke from the Band Stand, followed by Professor Leon Dean of the University of Vermont. Both speakers were introduced by Dean Mary Jean Simpson. Seated on the platform near the speakers were Mrs. Delia Honey, ninety-four years of age, the oldest resident of Albany, and Deacon N. B. Williams, ninety-two years of age, the oldest resident of Craftsbury.

The Craftsbury Band, under the direction of Alden Twiss, furnished music for the speaking program, and at other times during the day. At eight o'clock in the evening the Band gave a concert on Craftsbury Common during which, in spite of showery weather, a good number of young people carrying burning cat-tails formed an old-fashioned torchlight procession around the Common, thus ending in the grand old style Craftsbury's celebration of the Vermont Sesqui-centennial of 1941.

Historical sketch written for the Vermont Sesquicentennial  
Celebration in Craftsbury at Town Meeting, March 4, 1941,

by Horace F. Graham

We are all aware that today marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the admission of our state to the Union, the United States of America, as the fourteenth state and the first to be admitted after the adoption of the Constitution.

The chairman of your committee told me that ten or fifteen minutes would be all the time that could be given to this historical sketch. As I am not inclined to be longwinded I will try and obey cheerfully these instructions but to do so I can only touch upon a few of the high points of our early history.

It may be well in the first instance to say a few words as to how the present territory of Vermont came to be determined.

The northern boundary of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay was fixed in her charter and the eastern boundary of New York by her charter, as thirty miles east of the Hudson River. After the Seven Years' War in Europe, known to us on this continent as the French and Indian War, Great Britain came into the possession of substantially what is now the dominion of Canada so that as she was possessed of all of North America from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River, it became necessary for her to establish a boundary between the provinces of New Hampshire and New York and the province of Quebec. This was done by the Quebec Act of the British Parliament and fixed at the forty-fifth parallel of north latitude. This was probably fair, as it was half way between the equator and the north pole. Two noted surveyors of those days, Valentine and Collins were employed to mark this parallel on the ground. This they did by running a blazed line and marking the trees from the Connecticut to the St. Lawrence Rivers. The line was re-run after the Ashburton-Webster Treaty of the 1840's, when the old line was found on the trees in many places and re-marked by monuments. It was again re-run some twenty years ago. In some places it varies from the forty-fifth parallel, but has been lived up to till the present time.

In 1764 the King in Council fixed this boundary of New Hampshire as the west bank of the Connecticut River. The west boundary of what is now Vermont remained undetermined, or agreed to between New York and Vermont, until Vermont was admitted to the Union.

Before the French and Indian War, and until 1764, the Governor of New Hampshire chartered many towns in what is now Vermont up and back from the Connecticut River as far north as Lemington, and on the west side of the mountains all the way



from Pownal to Highgate. After the New Hampshire boundary was established the Colonial Governor of New York began to issue charters for towns in Vermont. The settlers in Vermont objected on the ground that they had received their charters in good faith from New Hampshire and paid for them. About this time along came Ethan Allen and drove off the "Yorkers" and a sort of partisan warfare began which lasted until the Revolution.

The settlers on the New Hampshire grants soon found after 1764 that they were without any government, and the different towns that had been settled began to meet by delegates at Bennington, Dorset, Windsor and Westminster to adopt measures for their protection. I can only touch upon a few of these meetings in the time allowed me. At Dorset in July 1776 the convention adopted a resolution that the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants form a separate district, and in September, 1776, again at Dorset, voted that "the district of land commonly called and known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants be formed into a separate district and that this fact be published in the newspapers and that a declaration be drawn up." This was done, and it appeared in the Connecticut Courant of March 17, 1777. Among other facts set forth in the declaration was "The inhabitants on said tract of land are at present without law or government, and may be truly said to be in a state of nature; consequently a right remains to the people of said grants to form a government best suited to secure their property, wellbeing and happiness. We, the delegates from the several counties and towns on said tract of land, bounded as follows: South on the North line of Massachusetts Bay; East on Connecticut River; North on Canada line; West as far as the New Hampshire grant extends."

"That the said State be called by the name of New Connecticut." (In the original report were the words, "Alias Vermont")

On the fourth of June, 1777, the delegates from forty-eight towns met at Windsor, changed the name of the new state to Vermont, and added a series of reasons for the separation from New York.

On July 2, 1777, a convention of delegates met at Windsor to form a Constitution for the new State. The Constitution of Pennsylvania, then recently adopted, and amended, was presented to the Convention as a model, and adopted with few changes some of which however were important, especially the one forbidding slavery within the state.

While the Convention was in session, Ticonderoga was evacuated, and the battles of Hubbardton, Bennington and Saratoga fought, in which battles Vermont bore her full share. Be-

cause of the disturbed condition of the country the Convention was called together again by the Council of Safety and the Constitution was amended by providing for an election on March 3, 1778, and for the meeting of the Assembly on March 12, at Windsor.

An election was held, the Legislature met and the new state was organized with Thomas Chittenden as Governor, a Secretary of State and a State Treasurer.

Vermont was not formed in a time of peace nor with the consent of all men. There had been enemies without and foes within, and so it continued for several years more. The ship of state was built in a tempestuous season and was launched on a stormy sea.

From this time forth until she was admitted to the Union Vermont maintained her independence, coined money, established a postal system with a Postmaster General, maintained five Post Offices of her own, while at the same time the thirteen colonies, the United States, only had seventy-five. The two systems made connection at Albany, New York.

Matters continued in about the same condition until 1784 when a committee reported to Congress that the district of territory lying on the west side of the Connecticut River, called Vermont, and the people inhabiting the same be and hereby are recognized and declared to be a free sovereign and independent state by the name of Vermont. This report was never acted upon and matters continued as they were until 1789 when a law was enacted by New York providing for a commission to negotiate with Vermont and "declared the consent of the Legislature" to the erection of Vermont into a state. To this overture of New York, Vermont responded by the appointment of commissioners to treat with those to be appointed by New York provided they should not diminish the limits of the state as then existing, nor oblige any person holding lands under grants from New Hampshire, or Vermont, nor subject to the state of Vermont, to make any compensation to any persons claiming possession of land under grants made by the late province and now state of New York. The Legislature of New York finally granted authority to the Commissioners to relinquish the jurisdiction of New York over the territory of Vermont and that no claim should be brought against the holders of Vermont lands by reason of grants of land in Vermont by New York and further that Vermont should pay to New York the sum of thirty thousand dollars. This payment was provided for by the Legislature of Vermont in October 1790. The Constitution of the United States was adopted for Vermont January 10, 1791 by a Convention called at Bennington for that purpose. On February 18, 1791 George Washington approved the bill which declared that "on the fourth day of March 1791 the said state by the

name and style of Vermont shall be received into this Union as a new and entire member of the United States of America and that until the representatives in Congress shall be apportioned according to an actual enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States, Vermont shall be entitled to chose two representatives." The state was further constituted a judicial district.

The number of its inhabitants was about eighty-five thousand, found in one hundred and eighty-five towns. More than seventy-seven thousand of these were south of the Winooski and Wells Rivers. The most populous town north of these rivers was Danville, with a population of five hundred and seventy-four. (The most populous town in the state was Guilford.) The population of Craftsbury was eighteen, of Greensboro nineteen. In 1860 Craftsbury had one thousand four hundred and thirteen people, only Derby with about twenty-five hundred, and Barton, with fifteen hundred, exceeding it.

Craftsbury's first Town Representative was Ebenezer Crafts, 1792-3.

Craftsbury has given to the State two Governors, Samuel C. Crafts and the writer of this article; two Representatives in Congress, Samuel C. Crafts and Augustus Young; and several other state officers, among whom are three presidential electors—Samuel C. Crafts, who voted for William Henry Harrison and John Tyler; James W. Simpson who voted for Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson; and Horace F. Graham who voted for William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt; so far they have all been on the winning side.

March 4, 1941

Horace F. Graham



APPENDIX A

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PETITION OF COL. EBENEZER CRAFTS TO THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VERMONT 1788

The Honorable General Assembly of the State of Vermont to be Holden at Manchester on the third Tuesday of October next

The Petition of Ebenezer Crafts now at Minden in the County of Chittenden Humbly Sheweth—that about Six years ago the Honoble General Assembly of Vermont was pleased to Grant a Township to your Petitioner and Associates it is of recent date we could obtain the survey of the out lines, last summer we got it lotted out &c—in May last we set out from the County of Worcester to begin the Settlements to the Number of 15 persons with Teams Stock &c having understood that the Hon'ble Court had made provision that Hayzen Road so Called Shouldbe repair'd and a Tax laid on the lands of the Proprietors for that purpose but when we arived at Pechem found to our mortification the Road impassable for near 30 Miles—we were nearly 200 Miles from our homes could not return without great Injury to our selves and impead the Settlement of our Township we therefore hired our Cattle & horses to pasture to the number of 15 head nearly a fortnate and went to work in Clearing the road makeing Causeways Repairing & building Bridges until we expended one hundred & 5½ days Work of hard Labour before we reached the line of Minden the road we made so far Passable that we have transported about 54 hundred at four Jorneys from Peachem with a Team Consisting of three Yoke of oxen Your Petitioner is far from representing or desirous of being understood that he has made a good road of it but Wishis and prays the Honorable Court to adopt some effectual measure to oblige the Proprietors of the Townships from Peacham to Minden to Contribute a Tollerable sufficiency to repair the roads & build Bridges Your Petitioner prays that the Hon'l Court would Grant a Tax of at least one penny Half-penny upon each & every acre in Dewes Gore Danvill Cabot Walden Hardwick Greensborough & Minden laying two pence on Minden for the purpose of makeing your Petitioner a reasonable Compensation for what he hath expended; but also to repair and make the roads Good, for Your Honours may rely upon it that it will be of the first Consequence in the Settlement of this part of the State Many Good Subjects that wish to remove into this part of the state but are not able on account of the badness of the roads for a person cannot even hire a horse to perform a days work which is computed about 15 Miles, under a Doller—and further Your Petitioner cannot Se that there is any Justice or propriety in some Towns or the proprietors thereof, Neglecting their duty in Settlingas by the Charter required, to

the disadvantage of Others, from Cabbot to Minden, Nearly 20 Miles not a Settler or but nearly Nothing done but as it is on their Risque it is not my business—altho Towns beyond them by Settling enhances the Value of their Lands; Your Petitioner asks for nothing more than a Tax on those proprietors to make the road good and passable for those who wish to transport there familys and Goods through them,—Your Petitioner feels a Conscious Satisfaction in the propriety of his request and prays that if Granted of which he hath no doubt that the General Court would commit the management of it into the hands of the surveyor General or Some other Gentleman that will effect the purpose

In duty bound will ever pray

Ebenez'r Crafts

Minden Septemb'r  
4th 1788—

NB the labour done on the road as mentioned in this petition is all on my expense

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(Filing)

Eben'r Crafts Petition filed Oct. 14th 1788

Attest Ros'l Hopkins Sec'y.

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(Committee Report)

Manchester Oct. 15 1788

To the Honourable General assembly Now Sitting the Commitee to whom was Refered the within petition Report as our oppinion that two pence on Each acares of land in Minden publick Rights Exepted be Granted on the within petition and bring in a bill accordingly by

Israel Morey comtee

In Assembly 24th Oct. read & accepted

Attest Stephen Jacobs Clerk

From Mss. State Papers of Vermont, Vol. 18, p. 10

The act was passed on October 25th, 1788. Jesse Leavenworth, Ebenezer Crafts and Lyman Hitchcock were made accountable to the County Court for the expenditure of the tax, which David Blanchard was to collect. Usual arrangements for sale of lands for unpaid taxes and redemption within one year were incorporated in the act which is recorded in Mss. Laws of Vermont, vol 2, p. 283

## APPENDIX B

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### Complete Text of Address prepared by Hon. Charles A. Plumley for the Craftsbury Sesquicentennial, 1939

When I was Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives back in 1908 my attention was called to that list of names of my predecessors which appears in the Legislative Directory, and in which list the name of Samuel Chandler Crafts stands out like a sore thumb, for he was Clerk in 1798 and 1799. Prior to being Clerk he had been a member of the House as of 1796; he was the Town Clerk of Craftsbury in 1792; he represented Craftsbury in the Legislature four or five times, and as I recall it, he was the youngest delegate to the Vermont Constitutional Convention which was held in 1793. As has been stated as a member of the Council, Governor of the State, member of Congress from March 4, 1817 to March 3, 1825 and United States Senator from April 23, 1842 to March 3, 1843, when he came back to Craftsbury of his own volition, his was an eventful and efficient life, and the world was the better for his having lived in it.

He was an integrant part of stubborn soil, his roots were here where man companions with the deer and shares the vesper sparrow's song at silver eventide, and here at last he was laid to rest within these borders, bounded by New England walls and mountain-high horizons.

He was typical of the day and age in which he lived; he was not a theorist and he did not claim to be a philosopher. The only theory he and his compatriots had was that every man was a man, with the right to make the most of himself and everything, and what he could, and without government aid or interference.

They had no Utopian theory of a more abundant life than the one they could carve out for themselves, and by themselves.

They had the innate, intense and ineradicable notion that a man had a right to be free, to be secure; and they undertook to pass on to all their posterity that freedom and security there. So they opened school houses, built churches; made laws that suited their consciences, and secured the rights of individuals.

They meant exactly what they said, and they said exactly what they meant, and as a consequence from those little green hills and valleys we love, and those humble unpretentious homes which are found in our little state, there have walked out, and there still will walk out, through all the splendid history of the days to come, men and women whose deeds have changed and



will change the map and the current of the history of the world, whose accomplishments are the possession and the proud heritage of us all.

So it is true that in every crisis and at every high point in history since the Green Mountain Boys laid claim to the territory we now know and love as Vermont, the every-day, unknighted, unplumed citizens of our little state, unmoved by aught save their sense of duty, have stood in the ranks, done the day's work, asked naught of any man, served the state and served the nation. And they will do it again, if and when occasion requires.

The story that the ages tell is that no method of procedure has ever been devised by which liberty could be divorced from local self-government. So often tried it has as often and always failed.

It is the threat of totalitarianism and paternalism further extended which should shake us into a realizing sense of our duties and our responsibilities as Americans, whatever party label we may wear upon our sleeves.

The danger is that millions of Americans do not realize the gravity of the situation in which democracy finds itself today. It is not vested with an inevitable immortality. It has died before in history. All this can happen here, may happen here, and on this continent and in this generation. No price we may be called upon to pay will be too great to prevent it, for history proves and experience teaches that in the long run democracy is safer and superior to dictatorship. Under no other system can the world be made an even reasonably safe place in which to live.

Early this morning and late last evening I listened to the war news. I studied the map of Europe and having occasion to refer to the dictionary that page on which are reproduced the flags of the countries of the world had spread out before me. As I looked at them all, and then at the stars and stripes, and again as I drove up the hill and saw "Old Glory" flying to the breeze in the yard of Governor Graham, I was reminded of the fact that recently we celebrated the 160th anniversary of the designation of our flag, by the Continental Congress, whose stripes, straight and true, now as then, point to the original American thrust against tyranny. Its field of stars representing a constellation has expanded to reveal the greatest aggregation of self-governing states on the face of the earth.

The flag these days should remind each and every one of us of the noble and glorious traditions of our country, which are ours. It waved at Lexington, conquered at Bunker Hill and King's mountain; ensanguined, but glorified with fratricidal blood it was raised at Chickamauga and Chancellorsville and

Gettysburg. It flew from the masthead of the Oregon as Clark sailed around the Horn, and was triumphant with Dewey and Sampson at Manila and Santiago; at Belleau Wood, Chateau Thierry and the Argonne, and in countless battles across the seas it led the way to victory, inspiring our soldiers and sailors to uphold the honor, prestige and glory for which it stood.

The symbol of a constitutional democracy assuring all protection of the personal liberties of the humble citizen, it stands the guardian over the security of a vast domain of incredible wealth, the while it is the protector of our firesides and our altars.

As the symbol of the heart and soul and patriotic consecration of the people of a very great nation it typifies a century and a half of magnificent history and is of a value inestimable and immeasurable.

Our flag is what we make it and keep it. It means only what we make it mean. It must be fought for and rededicated day by day. There is room under the American flag for change and growth. The revolution from which it was born was our first forward charge in man's age-long struggle to loose himself from every form of involuntary servitude. The times in which we live today call for an abiding faith in democracy and in the American traditions of self-government. There is no room beneath the flag of free man for the solution of our problems by any other method.

There is no banner in all the world that carried such hope, such promise, such grandeur of spirit as the stars and stripes. It was made by liberty, and for liberty, and carried in its service, but never once in all the world, nor shall it ever, be made to stoop to dictatorship or despotism. It is no painted rag. Hopes in its folds are embraced, and in them are emblazoned our whole national history.

"It is the constitution.

"It is the government.

"It is the free people who stand in the government on the constitution."

Charles A. Plumley

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APPENDIX C

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Biographical Note on Hon. James Harry Covington, one of the  
Speakers at the Craftsbury Sesquicentennial August 24, 1939

COVINGTON, JAMES HARRY, a Representative from Maryland; born in Easton, Talbot County, Md., May 3, 1870; received an academic training in the public schools of Talbot County and the Maryland Military Academy at Oxford; entered the law department of the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia in 1891, attending at the same time special lectures in history, literature, and economics, and was graduated from that institution in 1894; commenced the practice of law in Easton, Md.; unsuccessful Democratic nominee for the State senate in 1901; State's attorney for Talbot County 1903-1908; elected as a Democrat to the Sixty-first, Sixty-second, and Sixty-third Congresses, and served from March 4, 1909, until his resignation on September 30, 1914, to accept a judicial position; chief justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia from October 1, 1914, to June 1, 1918, when he resigned; professor of law in Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., 1914-1919; appointed by President Wilson a member of the United States Railroad Commission in January, 1918; resumed the practice of law in Washington, D. C. Judge Covington died at his home in Washington on February 4, 1942.



## APPENDIX D

CASH RECORD OF CRAFTSBURY SESQUI-  
CENTENNIAL

## Cash Receipts

1939

Aug. 22	Subscriptions		\$316.50
22	Contributions for marker:		
	Orleans County		
	Historical Society	\$20.00	
	Y. P. C. U. Society	10.00	
	Citizens of Greensboro	10.00	
	Miss Jean Simpson	10.00	50.00
23	Entertainment		81.88
24	Dinner		20.35
24	Refreshment Stand		28.04
			<hr/>
			\$496.77
			<hr/>
			\$496.77
			<hr/>
Aug. 26	Balance on Hand		94.97

## Cash Payments

1939

Feb. 11	Printing and Postals	\$ 3.00	
Mar. 8	Postage and postals	2.93	
8	Stationery	10.50	
Aug. 26	Advertising	41.59	
26	Printing and envelopes	7.05	
26	Stencils and paper	.70	
26	Sports committee	6.25	
26	Hazen Road Marker	65.00	
26	Parade Committee	19.50	
26	Fireworks	215.00	
26	Lumber	6.65	
26	Telephone and Special Delivery	3.00	
26	Stenographer	11.50	
26	Announcer	8.00	
26	Gasoline and nails	1.13	
			<hr/>
	Total Disbursement		401.80
Aug. 26	Balance		94.97
			<hr/>
			\$496.77
			<hr/>

It was voted at a meeting of the Sesquicentennial Committee, held in September, 1939, to invest the Balance in the printing of a Souvenir Book about the celebration.

## APPENDIX E

“The First Town Meeting of Craftsbury” (from the Town Clerk’s Records of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Town Meetings, 1792, 1793 and 1794)

Scene: Living-room in Colonel Ebenezer Crafts’ Home, March 15, 1792.

Samuel Crafts is on the Stage arranging papers, ink-well, etc., on a table.

Enter Colonel Ebenezer Crafts and Mrs. Mehitabel Crafts.

Col. C. Is everything in readiness for the Meeting, Samuel?

Sam. C. Yes, Father, I think so.

Mrs. C. Oh Ebenezer, I fear you will need more seats. (calling off-stage) to Lucretia Matilda, bring in some chairs!

L. M. Crafts (entering with a stool) This is the only seat I can find, Mother; our chairs are all in here now.

Sam. C. (looking off-stage in the other direction) Look, Father! Here are two men on snow-shoes coming to the door.

Col. C. (looking likewise) It is John McDaniel, the Justice of the Peace from Hyde Park. I am glad he has come in time to take charge of the Meeting.

L. M. Just think of coming all that way from Hyde Park on snow-shoes!

(Col. C. and Sam. have gone to side of stage representing the door; they re-enter with John McDaniel and Captain Jedediah Hyde)

J. McD. Good afternoon Colonel Crafts; good afternoon, Mistress Crafts. I have the honor to present to you my good friend Captain Jedediah Hyde.

Col. C. Welcome, Justice McDaniel; welcome, Captain Hyde. We are indeed honored by your travelling so far through the wilderness to take charge of our Meeting.

J. McD. Colonel Crafts, we deem it a privilege to be present at the organization of this young township which bears your name.

Sam. Let us relieve you of your snow-shoes, Gentlemen. (He and L. M. take out the snow-shoes and wraps of the two men. Then they re-enter)

Mrs. C. Was it not hard to find your way without any roads—and was the travelling difficult, Gentlemen? (Col. C. is looking out toward the door)

Cap. Hyde We found our way mostly by compass, Mistress Crafts; and for the most part our snow-shoes carried us easily over the crust. However, in some places in the woods the going was right heavy.

Col. C. Here come the Freeholders now! (he and Sam. go toward the door)

Mrs. C. Come, Lucretia Matilda, let us help the gentlemen with their wraps. (they go)

(The Citizens enter; two or three together; then the rest)

Col. C. Friends and neighbors, let me present Justice McDaniel of Hyde Park, who has just arrived to take charge of our Meeting; and Captain Jedediah Hyde.

(All bow in turn to J. McD. and Cap. H., as Col. C. calls their names; they murmur "most gratified to meet you," or "honored," as they pass; all stand around)

Col. C. Take chairs, Gentlemen; make yourselves as comfortable as you may. I am sorry that I cannot offer better accommodation. (All sit)

Nathan Cutler. We are very comfortable, Colonel, truly.

Joseph Scott (aside to Robert Trumbull) The Colonel's big log-house seems like a palace to me, compared to my little cabin.

R. Trumbull. Indeed it seems the same to me.

J. McD. Is everyone here now, Colonel?

Col. C. Yes, I think so, Justice McDaniel.

J. McD. Then I will call this meeting to order by first reading the warrant therefor. (reads :) Whereas application has been made to me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County of Chittenden, by more than four of the Inhabitants & freeholders of the Town of Craftsbury alias Minden in said County, requesting a town meeting to be warned in sd. Craftsbury some time in the month of March next, for the purpose of chooseing town officers for the year ensueing, & as the Law directs. These are therefore, by the authority of the State of Vermont to warn the Inhabitants of said Town of Craftsbury, by Law quallified to vote in Town meeting, to meet at the dwelling house of Col. Eben'r Crafts in said Craftsbury on Thursday the fifteenth day of March next at one o'clock P. M., then and there to chose town officers for the year ensueing as the Law directs, & do any other business that may be fairly offered in sd. meeting  
Dated in Hydespark the 24th day February AD 1792

John McDaniels Just. Peace

And now, it being the 15th day of March, A. D. 1792, at one of the clock in the afternoon, and the Inhabitants of the Town of Craftsbury being met agreeable to notification, I declare this Meeting open. (All straighten up in their sèats) The first article to be voted upon is the choosing of a Moderator.

Nehemiah Lyon. I nominate Colonel Ebenezer Crafts!

John Corey. I second the nomination.

All. I agree! Yes, yes! Colonel Crafts! Ebenezer Crafts!

J. McD. Well, Colonel, it seems to be unanimous. Mr. Modera-



tor, I turn this Meeting over to you. (he gives Col. C. his place at the table) (All rise and clap)

Col. C. Fellow-townsmen, I am most sincerely grateful to you. You did me much honor when you changed the name of our Town from Minden to Craftsbury; you honored me further by holding this Meeting in my home; and now you elect me for your Moderator. I am deeply sensible of all these honors, and I shall truly endeavor to serve our Town to the best of my ability. Will you now proceed to the election of a Town Clerk?

Daniel Mason. I nominate John Babcock for Town Clerk.

John Babcock (rising) Mr. Moderator Crafts, I feel that I cannot properly fill that office. I should like to nominate Samuel Crafts for Town Clerk.

R. Trumbull. I second the nomination.

All. Aye, aye! Sam Crafts, Sam Crafts!

Col. C. Well, Samuel, it looks as if you are elected Town Clerk.

Sam. C. (bowing) I sincerely thank my fellow-citizens for the trust which they have reposed in me.

Col. C. Come here, Samuel, get busy with your pen and paper. (Sam. sits at end of table and writes busily) Next in order is the choosing of three Selectmen—whom will you have?

N. Cutler (rising) I nominate Colonel Crafts for Selectman.

John Corey. I second that nomination!

John Babcock. I nominate Nathan Cutler!

N. Lyon. I second it, I second it!

Joseph Scott. I nominate Nehemiah Lyon.

Ephraim Morse. I second that nomination.

Col. C. Are there any other nominations? (silence) All in favor of Nathan Cutler, Nehemiah Lyon and myself serving as Selectmen, say Aye.

All. (with a roar) Aye! (N. Lyon and N. Cutler rise and bow)

N. Lyon and N. Cutler. Thank you, gentlemen, thank you. (they sit)

Col. C. We now have the office of Constable to fill.

E. Morse. I nominate Joseph Scott!

J. Babcock. I second the nomination.

Col. C. All in favor say Aye.

All. Aye! Joseph Scott! Aye, aye!

Col. C. Joseph Scott is unanimously elected Constable. (J. Scott rises and bows) And now do I hear of any other business to be offered in this Meeting?

N. Cutler. Mr. Moderator, I think the Town should do something about roads.

Several Voices. Hear, hear!

N. Cutler. It is nigh three years since we started settling this Town, and our efforts are continually being hampered by the lack of good roads.

Col. C. Well, what, in the opinion of the Meeting, should be done about roads?

N. Cutler. I move that the Town be divided into two districts for the laying out of roads; that part of the Town lying east of the Trout Brook shall be one district, and the part on the west shall be the other.

Robert Trumbull. I second that motion.

Col. C. You have heard this motion made by Nathan Cutler and seconded by Robert Trumbull; all in favor thereof signify by saying Aye.

All. Aye!

Col. C. The motion is carried.

N. Cutler. Mr. Moderator, I should like to move further that John Corey be the surveyor in the west district, and John Babcock in the east.

Joseph Scott. I second it.

Col. C. All in favor?

All. Aye!

Col. C. It is a vote. (J. Babcock and J. Corey rise and bow. J. Babcock sits)

J. Corey (standing) Will we not need to raise a tax for maintaining these roads?

Mills Merrifield. I move that a tax of twelve pounds be raised for the purpose of repairing and making the roads passable.

E. Morse. Mr. Merrifield, that isn't enough.

R. Trumbull. But Ephraim, how could we possibly hope to raise any more?

John Babcock. And what about breaking roads in winter?

Mills. M. I further move that one half of the said twelve pounds be laid out in summer, and the remainder in winter, in breaking roads.

Col. C. Is this motion made by Mills Merrifield seconded?

R. Trumbull. I second it.

Col. C. All in favor—?

Some (rather weakly) Aye. (Some shake their heads)

Col. C. Contrary minded?

Someone (feebly) No.

Col. C. The Ayes have it, and the motion is carried.

John Corey. If we raise money by taxes, we shall need a Town Treasurer.

N. Cutler. You are right, Neighbor Corey. I nominate Daniel Mason for Town Treasurer.

Mills M. I second the nomination.

Col. C. All in favor?

All. Aye!

Col. C. Well, Daniel, it seems you have the job of Town Treasurer.

Daniel Mason. (rising and bowing) A rather thankless task, I fear. Nevertheless I appreciate your confidence, and I shall discharge my duties to the best of my capacity.

Nathaniel Babcock. I should like to nominate Ephraim Morse for the office of Sealer of Weights and Measures.

William Scott. I second that nomination.

Col. C. You have heard Ephraim Morse nominated by Nathaniel Babcock and seconded by William Scott; all in favor say: Aye.

All. Aye, Aye!

Col. C. Ephraim Morse is elected Sealer of Weights and Measures. (E. Morse rises and bows.)

Mills M. I should like to make a further motion concerning roads, namely that the Selectmen be directed to survey by compass such roads as shall be thought necessary, before the Surveyors direct labor to be laid out thereon.

E. Morse. I second that motion!

Col. C. All in favor—?

All. Aye!

Col. C. The motion is carried.

Robert Trumbull. I think we should make a further ruling with regard to roads, winter roads in particular. We shall have difficulty in keeping our public roads open in winter if some people persist in driving narrow ox-sleds over them. I move therefore that no person belonging to this Town, after this present season, shall attempt to drive an ox-sled less than four feet wide in any public road in this Town.

N. Cutler. That's a very good ruling, Robert, but how are we going to enforce it? Constable Scott cannot be all over town at once, you know. (J. Scott chuckles)

R. Trumbull. Well, I will add this to my motion: if anyone does attempt to drive an ox-sled less than four feet wide over our public roads, he shall forfeit the said sled, to be sold at Public Vendue, and the money so arising shall be given to the poor, by order and direction of the Selectmen.

N. Cutler. I second this motion.

Col. C. You have heard this motion made by Robert Trumbull and seconded by Nathan Cutler; all in favor make manifest by saying Aye.

All. Aye!

Col. C. The motion is carried. Is there any further business to be offered?

John Corey. Mr. Moderator, I should like to bring up the matter of the Town making a grant of any sum to be expended in schooling the children during the ensuing year—said sum to be granted in money, wheat, or any other way.

J. Babcock. I move that 25 bushel of wheat be raised to be expended in schooling the children.

J. Corey. I second that motion, and I further move that Nehemiah Lyon, Daniel Mason and Joseph Scott be a Committee to superintend the schooling.

E. Morse. I second that motion!



Col. C. You have heard these motions made and seconded—what is your pleasure?

All. Aye, Aye! We agree! They're all good men!

Col. C. The motions about schooling the children are carried. Have you any further business?

L. M. (entering to the edge of the stage) Excuse me, Sir, but my Mother desires me to say that when you Gentlemen have finished your business, you will please pass into the kitchen, where she has some refreshment prepared for you.

J. McD. A very pleasant message indeed!

Cap. Hyde. And a very pretty messenger! (He rises and bows as L. M. goes out)

N. Lyon. I want to make a motion—I move that all Town and Freeman's Meetings for the future be held at the house of Ebenezer Crafts, until some more **convenient** place be appointed.

All. We second that motion—aye, aye! (some begin to get up from their seats)

Col. C. (laughing) Gentlemen, Gentlemen, any further business?

Daniel Mason. I move that this Meeting be dissolved.

All. I second it—Aye, aye!

Mrs. Crafts (stepping into the end of the room) Come this way, Gentlemen.

Nathaniel Babcock. Thank you, Mistress Crafts.

William Scott. Thank you, Mistress Crafts.

Col. C. Lead the way, Mehitabel. We'll be with you.

(Mrs. C. leads them out; Col. C. and J. McD bring up the rear)

(Note: during the Meeting, each one who makes or seconds a motion should rise to speak. When Col. C. declares a motion carried, he should pound with his hammer-gavel.)

Cast of Characters in "The First Town Meeting of Craftsbury."

Colonel Ebenezer Crafts

Mrs. Mehitabel Crafts

Samuel Crafts

Lucretia Matilda Crafts

Joseph Scott

Nathan Cutler

Nehemiah Lyon

Robert Trumbull

Ephraim Morse

John Babcock

John Corey

Nathaniel Babcock

Martin Sawyer

Adelaide Dustan

Neil Goodwin

Dorothy Paterson, on March 4th, and Harriet Dustan on August 21st.

George Dunn

Martin Johnson

William Dustan

Ray Reid, on March 4th, and William Tillotson on August 21st.

Vernon Dunn

William Anderson

Henry Clapp

Theron Strong

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Mills Merrifield	Allen Pike
William Scott	Foster Tillotson
Daniel Mason	Louis Marckres
John McDaniel, Justice of the Peace from Hyde Park	Earl Wilson
Captain Jedediah Hyde, of Hyde Park	Clyde Simmons

Members of the Committee for the August Sesquicentennial Celebration:

President, Jean W. Simpson; Vice-president, Thomas Johnson; Secretary, Mary H. Bailey; Treasurer, Euna Anderson.

Chairmen of Sub-Committees: Finance, George Dunn; Publicity, Harriet Dustan; Entertainment, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clapp; Program, Hon. Horace F. Graham; Grounds, Martin Sawyer; Exhibitions, Mrs. Kate Dutton and Mrs. Helen Dustan; Art Exhibit, Searchlight Club; Sports, Frank Young; Parade, Penelope Easton; Refreshment Stands, Vernon Dunn.

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